

The Curiosity World.

VOL. II. NO. 1.

LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., SEPTEMBER 1, 1887.

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BARN SWALLOW.

Hirundo erythrogastra.

American Swallows.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

Swallows are distinguished from other birds, by their long wings, thereby enabling them to excel all birds in their power of flight. They often fly a mile a minute which if sustained ten hours a day for one year would enable them to fly around the earth nine times. To watch a flock building their nests, one would think their wings were tireless. Their short, flat bills show that they are purely insectivorous, destroying alike the pests of man and beast and taking no toll, like other birds. For this reason they are deservedly favorites. When, after the snows of winter have melted and the streams become active, we note their arrival, it is like meeting an old friend. We know then that spring is here and they give their old homesteads that appearance when flying in and out of the old barns. Sometimes they make a mistake and arrive too early, many of them being frozen by a cold wave. There is a popular and wide-spread belief, that their flying high indicates fair weather, while flying low denotes rain. There may be more than a passing thought in this, owing to the barometrical pressure on the insects which they forage on through the air.

PURPLE MARTIN. (*Progne Subis.*) This "Black Martin" is a resident throughout the whole of North America. It is noticeable by its purple-black color and its harsh cracking voice when trying to sing. They nest in houses and boxes prepared for them, and often use crevices in houses and occasionally they appropriate a Cliff Swallow's domicile for their use. Originally, they, like Chimney Swifts, occupied hollow trees, but they have become so Americanized that they prefer neat houses rather than their log huts. Their nests are composed of anything handy, such as hay, rags, sticks, paper and twine. The complement varies from four to six, and the eggs are of a dirty white color, unspotted and measure about .98x.69.

CLIFF SWALLOW. (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) This is one of the most common of the family with us, being distributed throughout the whole of North America, chiefly in the interior. It is called "Cliff" because it formerly nested under cliffs. They nest under the eaves of barns and dwellings, nests of mud mixed with hay

and hair to keep it from falling. They are very sociable during the breeding period. We have two barns that have been occupied by them from "time immemorial," and often during favorable seasons I have counted a hundred nests under the eaves. These nests deserve more than passing notice, for the dirt is carried piece by piece in their mouths often a mile away before they find any of the right consistency. When done, it is a masterpiece of bird architecture and mechanism, unequalled by man in his great engineering efforts. The set averages five, of a white color, marked with blotches of reddish brown. The nest is not lined with anything and the eggs are laid on the bottom of the bare nest.

BARN SWALLOW.—*Hirundo erythrogastra.* This elegant "Swallow-tail" has about the same distribution as the preceding, but is more striking by its brighter color and beautiful tail. They occupy the interior of barns, placing their nests on the rafters. The nests are composed of mud thickly interspersed with hair and warmly lined with feathers. The eggs are white thickly dotted with reddish-brown, distinguishable from the Cliff Swallow's by being less elongated and lighter colored; measuring about .78x.45.

WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—*Tachycineta bicolor.* This species, which resembles the Barn Swallow, with a white breast, is distributed chiefly in the temperate parts, but principally along the Atlantic coasts where, Mr. Maynard says: "There are literally millions of them; it being impossible to fire off a gun without killing a number." I, myself, have often seen five hundred of them setting on wire fences, with their white breasts front, looking all the world like a miniature battalion on dress parade. They nest in the neighborhood of small ponds, placing their eggs in deserted woodpecker holes or in a natural cavity. In the nest, which is thickly lined with feathers, is placed her set of six pure white, oblong oval eggs, measuring .80x.56.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW.—*Tachycineta thalassina.* This elegant swallow is found breeding abundantly in California and Colorado and it is the typical swallow west of the Rocky Mountains, especially in Arizona. The eggs are of a pure white color, four to five in number, measuring

.80x.50. The nests are placed like those of the White bellied, in the neighborhood of running water. Lately they have been known to breed under the eaves of houses. Their nest is simply constructed of leaves, grass and feathers.

BANK SWALLOW.—*Cottia riparia.* The Sand Martin is found in all parts of the world and breeds by the thousands along sandy sea coasts. They build their nests in the perpendicular banks by excavating a hole varying from two to four feet in them, enlarging it and lining it with feathers and twigs. The set, varying from four to six are of an immaculate white, measuring .70x.50. A bank is often occupied by so many of them that at a distance it presents the appearance of a huge honeycomb surrounded by giant bees. Both sexes assist in the incubation.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—*Stelgidopteryx serripennis.* Like the last with which it is usually found, this swallow has about the same distribution. Breeds throughout nearly all its range, placing their nests in holes in trees, stone ledges and under bridges. The nest is composed of grass lined with feathers. The clutch varies from four to six, white, unspotted, measuring .75x.55.

A Rare Coin.

BY "NUMIS."

There are few numismatists who have ever seen or heard of a gold coin of the value of four dollars having been issued by the committee on the Coinage of the United States early in 1879. But nevertheless such a coin was issued. It appears that the Committee with a view to improving the coinage in regard to size, denomination or appearance, instructed the superintendent of the mint to execute new patterns and experimental pieces of a series of gold coin to represent the value of four dollars and to be known as the "Stella." In accordance with his instructions, the superintendent in 1879 produced 20 sets of these coins, each set being composed of three pieces among which was the stella, designated Metric Gold and the others were the Metric dollar and the Gold Metric dollar. These 20 sets were submitted to the Committee and meeting with their approval a bill was introduced in Congress anticipating a new metric coin for international use, but it failed to become a law. Pre-

vious to the introduction of the bill and a little while after the 20 sets were first struck, 100 sets were struck and 300 sets were coined soon after. These were officially offered to members of Congress and personal and political friends on payment of their intrinsic value. Then 400 sets were coined in 1880 bearing the date 1879 and about half of these found their way into the hands of coin collectors and the balance are most likely in the vaults of the mint.

Following is a description of the Stella, which was the size of the present nickel, and contained on the obverse a "Liberty head" turned to the left with "1879" below, thirteen stars with figures and letters interspersed denoting the proportion of gold, alloy, etc. On the reverse, above, "United States of America," within it "E. Pluribus Unum" with a large five rayed star, "Stella" in the centre and below "One Stella 400 cents," and "Deo est Gloria" and still below, "Four Dol." The value of these coins is hard to be determined and depends on whether the coin was one of the original 20 sets or not. I am informed that a few of the first 20 sets issued were disposed of for as much as \$100 and the prices of those subsequently coined range from \$50 down to twelve. A single specimen of the Stella is at present worth about \$5.00 and the set of three pieces at about \$7.50. On inquiry at the sub-treasury in New York City, as to whether such a coin as the Stella valued at four dollars was ever issued, one is told that the Government never coined such a piece; this is true; they were coined by the superintendent of the mint under directions from the Committee on Coinage and in my opinion they are not entitled to the word "coin," at least not in the numismatic sense of the word, and they are nothing more than experimental pieces and should be recognized as such.

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SUB scribe for the "Gossip"—the new stamp and coin journal, 25 cents per year; a large 8 page 24 column paper; send for sample copy. Trial adv. 25 cents. Gossip Pub. Co., Box 424, Ottawa, Ont.

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A RARE CHANCE I have put up sheets, each containing 25 var. foreign stamps. Sheet A, catalogued at 25c, 5c; Sheet B, catalogued at 30c, 10c; Sheet C, catalogued at 40c, 15c. W. B. Jackson, 607 Bennington St., East Boston, Mass. *13

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THE CURIOSITY WORLD,

H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

Entered at the post office at Lake Village, N. H., as Second Class Matter.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1887.

OFFICIAL ORGAN

—OF THE—

NEW ENGLAND PHILATELIC UNION.

Vol. II, No. 1. Whole No. 13. The first number of the first volume of the first semi-monthly devoted to our hobbies that has ever been published. What do you think of it? Looks natural, does it not? Quite a number of subscriptions expired with our last number and we were a little anxious to find out whether they liked the paper well enough to continue it for another year or not. We are much pleased to find that about nine out of every ten have sent in their subscription to the present volume, and also that quite a large number whose subscriptions do not expire for several months to come, have sent in their fifty cents for another year, as one man says, "to encourage you a little and show that I like the paper," besides over 130 new subscribers since our last number was issued. If they keep on at this rate, and we see no reason why they will not, we shall not "sink" as great an amount of money as has been predicted.

The CURIOSITY WORLD as a semi-monthly, has been our pet scheme for the last six months. For a long time we were undecided as to whether we had better make the attempt or not, but having made up our mind that it can be done, we are on deck and ready for business. We intended to illustrate the New Issues commencing with this number, but are unable to do so, owing to the death of Mr. Durbin. We omit the New Issues this time but shall give a full list in our next issue which will be out the 15th.

The Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at the Tremont House, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 8, 9 and 10th. Everything passed off quietly and the opposing factions met, shook hands, smoked the pipe of peace and the late unpleasantness was a thing of the past, gone, we hope, forever. President Tiffany said "let us have peace" and there was peace. Secretary Bratt kindly sent us a report of the meeting, and we intended to publish the same in full, but finding it would take up nearly half of our space and that the leading philatelic papers would publish the same, we concluded that we had better fill our columns with something that would be more interesting to the general public. The Chicago Society gave a banquet to the Association members and according to all reports, those present had a very pleasant time. We are very glad that everything passed off so quietly, and sincerely hope there will be no more such quarrels. If we all stick together, much good may be accomplished, but unless we do so, the Association will amount to but very little. The Association voted to publish its own official organ, but when it is to be published we are not informed. The next Convention will be held at Boston, Mass., August, 1888.

The publishers of the Philatelic Gazette take us to task in their July number because we have told some plain facts about Mr. Fraser, late editor of the American Philatelist. Well Grandfather Gazette—we respect your age, but not your judgement—we don't care whether you like it or not. If you don't like it you can do the next best thing. We will not look on and see you or Mr. Fraser abuse a man who is as much better than you are as a \$20 gold piece is better than a 5 cent nickel, without saying a little something ourselves, and don't you forget it. Mr. Durbin was more of a man than the whole Altoona-Fraser clique all put together, and we do not like to hear "injudicious rattle-pates," or bald pates abuse him.

The Chicago Society will support Mr. H. B. Seagrave, for Treasurer of the American Philatelic Association, to take the place left vacant by the death of Mr. Durbin.

Subscribe for the WORLD.

Try an advertisement in our next issue. Only 50 cents per inch for 2,500 circulation.

Wm. Thorpe of Auburn, N. Y., is about to publish the Knickerbocker Philatelist.

Mr. Alvah Davison, of Helmetta, N. J., editor of the Youths' Ledger, made us a short call August 22nd.

We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

"The CURIOSITY WORLD still keeps up its reputation as the best all-around curiosity paper published.—[Am. Philatelic Record.

Say Mr. Voute, it isn't just the thing to call our worthy Secretary a "Brat," after all hands "kissed and made up" at the Chicago Convention.

We have received a copy of No. 1 of the Niagara Falls Philatelist; it is hardly up to the standard but we hope to see an improvement in the next issue.

Mr. Warren K. Moorehead, of Xenia, Ohio, paid us a visit August 20th, and we had the pleasure of looking over a portion of his fine stock of Indian and Mound Builder's relics.

"The subscription price of your paper is very small; if it was \$1.00 instead of 50 cents I would pay it before I would be without the paper." Geo. R. Merrill, 68 Williams Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Secretary Bratt sent us one of the Association badges; "Second Annual Convention American Philatelic Association, Chicago, Ill., Aug., 1887" is neatly printed in gilt on red ribbon and is very attractive.

The American Philatelic Record has made its appearance. It is published by Robert W. Manier and Abram R. Tyler, of Binghamton, N. Y. It presents a very neat appearance and we hope it will meet with the success it deserves.

We are always in want of first-class articles pertaining to Philately, Numismatics, Ornithology, Oology, Indian Relics, Autographs, or anything else that will interest our readers. Send along your articles and state cash price for the same.

The July number of the Philatelic Gazette begins Vol. IV, and celebrates the occasion by presenting a new cover which so much improves the looks of the paper that we hardly knew it. By the way, gentlemen, you want to brace up or brother Jewett will get ahead of you.

The President of the London Society says that neither Sir Rowland Hill or James Chalmers invented the adhesive postage stamp, but that Mr. C. Whiting of London was the real inventor. Some crank will be saying next that it never was invented, but like Topsy, it "grewed."

W. B. Brockway has sold his interest in the Old Curiosity Shop to Will M. Clemens, of Jamestown, N. Y. Mr. Clemens says he "means business, prefers to do business on a cash basis, and has no use for triflers, dead beats or cranks." That sounds like business, and we hope our worthy friend will live long and prosper.

Is it possible that Plain Talk's prediction in regard to the Empire State Philatelist has come true so soon, and that Mr. Fraser has "killed" the paper without getting out a single number? Too bad! We would like to see "T. Coke" Watkins tackle that paper again; he would "wake 'er up," mighty sudden.

"A bright journal comes all the way from the 'city of frauds.' Its name is the Witch City Philatelist and its July number is quite interesting. We trust that it will start at home and expose every fraud within the walls of Salem."—[Figaro.

Amen! Publish the pedigree of L. H. Patterson and E. A. Dresser, and help clean out these pests of philately.

We have just purchased a small lot of Indian Relics, which we offer for sale at the following prices: Arrow heads, fine, 10 cents each, 3 for 25 cents, 65 cents per doz; cheaper grade, 50 cents per doz; fine white quartz arrow heads from South Carolina, 15 cents each or 2 for 25c; Spear heads, 25 cents each; Celts, fine, \$1.00; cheaper grade, 50 cents; 1 fine tomahawk, \$2.00 Any of the above sent post free on receipt of price. I wish to buy Indian Relics in any quantities for spot cash: send list and state price. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Rare Coins.

Probably nearly every one in the United States knows that there are many coins in circulation that are worth much more than their face value, but they wouldn't know them if they should meet them in the middle of the street. We have issued a Premium Coin List, containing 94 illustrations, and giving our buying prices for every U. S. coin worth over face value. Every one who handles money should possess a copy. Price, 10 cents, or 3 for 25 cents, post free. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

L. W. Durbin, Dead.

Saturday morning, August 13, Mr. L. W. Durbin, the Philadelphia stamp dealer, died at his home in Burlington, N. J., of consumption.

Mr. Leonadas W. Durbin was born in Rising Sun, Ind., August 18, 1849. In 1861, when the war broke out, being too young to enlist and too patriotic to stay at home, he entered the Quartermaster's department and served through the war. At the close of the rebellion he entered the banking house of Gaylord, Leavenworth & Co., of St. Louis, Mo., where he remained several years. In 1869 he went to Philadelphia and purchased an interest in the firm of Mason & Co., stamp and coin dealers. The year following he withdrew from the firm and started in the stamp business on his own account and has continued it until a few months ago when his failing health compelled him to leave his business in the hands of his clerks. He was authority on all stamp matters and his Postage Stamp and Postal Card Catalogues were considered the standard; he also published several editions of the Excelsior Stamp Album, and his "Philatelic Monthly" was the oldest stamp paper in America. As a writer, Mr. Durbin had no superiors and but few equals; he contributed largely to the philatelic press, and was Treasurer of the American Philatelic Association.

Mr. Durbin was a member of the M. E. Church and Superintendent of the Union Sabbath School, President of the Literary Aid Society and represented the church in the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association; he was also a member of Burlington Lodge No. 22, I. O. O. F., and Templars of Honor and Temperance, having served two years as Grand Worthy Templar of Pennsylvania. He leaves a wife and two children who have the heartfelt sympathy of a large circle of personal friends, besides many who only knew the deceased by reputation and business transactions through the mail.

The funeral took place at the M. E. church, Tuesday afternoon August 16th, and Burlington Lodge No. 22, I. O. O. F., attended in a body and performed the usual burial service. The floral emblems were many and very beautiful. In his closing remarks Rev. Mr. Gifford said: "This is a great loss to the family, a great loss to the church and a great loss to the community. He was wise in counsel, kind in spirit, full of faithfulness to his God and the church. The fact that a man of this kind has been taken from us is the cause of this sadness and sorrow."

We have known Mr. Durbin by reputation for several years, and have had more or less dealings with him during that time; he has been a regular contributor to our paper since it was first established and we have always found him a perfect gentleman, prompt, honest and upright in all transactions, an Odd Fellow, indeed. We never met our brother here, but hope to meet him in that Supreme Grand Lodge above, whose Lodge Room is Heaven, and whose Noble Grand, is God.

One dollar pays for a year's subscription to this paper and a 1 inch ad one issue.

The "Southern Collector" is dead and its subscription list will be filled by the "Buckeye State Collector."

"I have subscribed for eleven Curiosity papers and I find that the CURIOSITY WORLD is the best." J. E. Hartman, 1435 State St., Chicago, Ill.

We have a few copies of Nos., 1, 2, and 3 of this paper which we will sell for 25 cents each and any of the succeeding numbers 10 cents each.

We have received a copy of the "Tag Collectors of the World" published by F. L. Willcutt, 1114 Woodland Ave., Cleveland Ohio. Price, 5 cents.

For only 25 cents we will send post free to any address, one copy each of the "Black List," "Stamp Dealers of the World" and "Stamps, How to Buy and Sell." Every collector should own a set of these books, and now is the time to buy them.

We will send the CURIOSITY WORLD six months to any address in the United States or Canada, for only 500 square-cut envelope stamps or one year for 1000. We will also accept \$1.00 worth of any U. S. postage or department stamps catalogued at more than 5 cents each, for a year's subscription.

The second edition of Davie's "Egg Check List and Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is a book of 184 pages with seven full page engravings and will delight the heart of every collector of Bird's Eggs. Nearly 800 species of birds are correctly named and numbered, and general descriptions of both birds and eggs are given. Price, Post free, \$1. Address this office.

In Re Chalmers-Hill.

BERMUDA, June 13th, 1887.

DEAR SIR:—I must apologize for not having written sooner, to acknowledge a copy of the resolution passed by the Q. C. P. S., in reference to the claims put forward by Mr. Patrick Chalmers on behalf of his father as inventor or first proposer of adhesive postage stamps. I am very glad to see that at last an American Philatelic Society has taken up the other side of the question and has looked into the evidence, or so-called evidence, produced by Mr. Chalmers in support of his case.

It seems to me, however, to be unnecessary to go back to the posts established in Paris, in the 17th, and 18th, centuries; These had been entirely forgotten, and I do not suppose that any of the English postal reformers of the present century had ever heard of them; the argument at present is rather between the representatives of Mr. James Chalmers and Sir Rowland Hill, and my own opinion is that Mr. Patrick Chalmers, although he has had by far the most to say, has not in reality the best of it. This is merely my private opinion, and I do not ask anyone to adopt it on that account, but I claim the right to give my opinion for what it is worth.

Mr. Patrick Chalmers' statements appear to consist partly of abuse of Sir Rowland Hill as an impostor, who palmed off other peoples ideas as his own, and partly of letters and newspaper cuttings showing that this party and that party have accepted his statements as correct. This is all very interesting, especially the abuse, but it is not argument and it is not evidence. It is very easy and safe to abuse a dead man, who cannot bring an action for libel; and it is very easy to get up a body of believers, if Mark is to believe simply because Matthew is convinced, and Luke and John, Peter and Paul are to follow suit for the same reason; and when doubting Thomas asks for proofs, he is simply referred to the long list of illustrious individuals and learned societies who have believed without seeing them.

The case lies in a nutshell: James Chalmers did claim to have been the first to propose adhesive stamps for postal use, and grounded his claim on the fact that he had made this proposition in November, 1837. Rowland Hill informed him that he had himself proposed adhesive postage stamps, as an alternative to stamped envelopes or letter-sheets, in February, 1837, and the published reports of the commission, before whom Rowland Hill gave evidence at that date, show that such was the case. James Chalmers therefore withdrew his claim. These are facts which Mr. Patrick Chalmers has never attempted to disprove, and in the face of these facts it is useless to bring forward persons who profess to remember that James Chalmers printed essays in 1833 or 1834. The date which he assigned to his proposal, was November, 1837, and it is absurd on the face of it, for anyone forty or fifty years later to attempt to put back that date three or four years, and raise a claim which was never made by the man himself.

The editor of the "American Philatelist" takes me to task in the April number. He says that, like myself, he has "read much on both sides of the case," but shows immediately afterwards that he has not read the only important statement on the Rowland Hill side that I have ever seen in print, namely, that laid by Mr. Pearson Hill before the Philatelic Society of London, and published in the "Philatelic Record," for November, 1881. The letter of Mr. James Chalmers withdrawing his claim was laid before the Society, and the greater part of it is published in the "Philatelic Record." Nothing to refute this has ever been produced by Mr. Patrick Chalmers.

I am sorry to see that the editor of the "American Philatelist," in taking up Mr. P. Chalmers' case, thinks it necessary to adopt his style of argument also, not content with abusing Mr. Hill, about whose personal character I feel sure he knows nothing, except what he has gathered from Mr. P. Chalmers' books. He accuses me of being a partisan of the Hill side. I can assure him that I have no acquaintance with Mr. Pearson Hill, and have never seen or corresponded with him; and that I am quite ready to accept and acknowledge any PROOFS of his case that Mr. Patrick Chalmers may produce, but I am not prepared to accept unsupported assertions from either side.

I shall be glad if you will lay this letter before the Quaker City Philatelic Society, and if you care to publish it you have my full permission to do so. Yours faithfully, EDW. B. EVANS.—[Quaker City Philatelist.

Our readers would do well to look over our Exchange column. There are many bargains offered there each issue and this number is no exception to the general rule.

Stamps, How to Buy and Sell.

This book, by the well-known author, H. J. Miron, contains much valuable information for both dealer and collector, and is having a very large sale. Every Philatelist should have a copy, and by a careful perusal of its contents he would know many things about the science of Philately that he never knew before. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three copies for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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of stamps to the approval sheet business,
shall issue no price lists, or keep any
standing offer. I shall mark my stamps
at reasonable prices and from this date
will allow 33 1-3 per cent, commission.
Send a good reference and 2c. stamp for
a sample sheet and see if I cannot suit you
both in quality and price.

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Austria Telegraph 8 var comp	\$ 15
Bavaria '70 7 var	15
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Chili '77-'81 9 var	25
Denmark '75 10 var comp	06
Egypt '79 8 var	30
Guadeloupe unpaid '85 7 var comp	75
Guatemala '81 5 var comp	15
Holland and '87 8 var comp	20
Holland, unpaid, 5 & 10c.	15
Honduras, '78, 5 var.	15
Hong Kong, 15 var.	35
Hungary, '75, 5 var. comp.	10
India service, 5 var.	10
Italy, Emanuel, 12 var.	15
Segnataase, 10 var.	10
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Jamaica, '68-'73, 7 var. comp.	20
Japan, 12 var.	30
Mexico, '74, 7 var. complete.	40
" '84, 11 var. 1c to 50c.	40
15 var.	30
Norway, '72, 6 var. comp.	10
Persia, 15 var.	65
St. Domingo, '81, 6 var.	35
" '81, 9 var. comp.	1 00
Salvador, '67, 4 var. comp.	30
Straits Settlements, 12 var	30
Sweden, '72, 11 var	06
official, 10 var	15
" " " comp	20
Losen 10 " "	20
Switzerland, unpaid 7 var	15
Transvaal, '69 5 var comp	22
U. S. of Columbia, '81 5 var comp	15

COUNTRY.	PRICE.
Alsace and Lorraine, inverted type reset,	25
7 var. complete,	25
Baden, '62, 6 var. inc. 30 kr	10
Land Post, 3 var. complete,	25
Env. '62, 3 var.	11
Bavaria, '70, 7 var. complete,	25
Return Letter, 6 var. complete,	10
Retour-brief, 6 var. complete,	15
Unpaid, 1 & 3 kr	10
Bergedorf, 5 var.	65
Bhopal, '81, 5 var. comp	65
Bhore, 2 var. complete,	25
Bolivar, '80, 4 var	1 00
Bremen 6 var complete	40
Cape Verde 7 var 5r to 100r	65
" " 9 var 5r to 300r	2 00
Congo 4 var	40
Corea 5 var complete	60
Corrientes '61-'75 4 var comp	1 00
Costa Rica '85 4 var	50
Official 5 var	1 25
" " 68 4 var	15
Danube Steam Nav Co 4 var complete	15
Guatemala 5 var complete	1 00
Guatemala '75 4 var complete	25
" " 75 4 var complete	20
Env & wrapper cut sq 4 var comp	30
Hamburg 10 var	20
Env 7 var comp	10
Heligoland, '67, 5 var. comp	15
" " 20 var	40
wrappers 3 var comp	10
Honduras '65 wrappers 2 var complete	12
Italy '55 3 var	75
Japan '71 4 var	60
Macao 7 var 5r to 100r	60
Mexico '64 Eng 4 var complete	1 25
Porte de Mar black 7 var	50
colored 6 var comp	50
Naples head 7 var	20
" " 8 var	25
Nepaul 3 var	60
Porto Rico '82 1-2 to 8m 6 var	08
Persia official 4 var complete	25
Rajpalea letter sheets 3 var	12
Roman States '65 7 var complete	09
Roumania '66 3 var complete	55
San Domingo '79 4 var comp	55
Salvador '67	20
Samoa 4 var	60
" " 8 var complete	20
Sardinia 6 var	10
Saxony arms 5 var	09
Servia '68 7 var	15
Siam 5 var complete	55
Spain official 4 var complete	10
Switzerland "Anser Kurs" 10 var complete	25
Thum & Taxis 14 var	25
Transvaal '69 5 var complete	40



PROF. THOMAS H. HUXLEY,
SCIENTIST AND AGNOSTIC.

Prof. Thomas Henry Huxley, not long
since elected president of the famous
Royal Society, suffers considerable mis-
apprehension of his position, especially
in this country. It is very generally sup-
posed by those who have given little at-
tention to the subject that his fame is
chiefly due to his attacks on revealed re-
ligion and championship of unbelief or
agnosticism. This is entirely incorrect.
Radical and aggressive as are his views
on the relations of science and religion, they
are expressed only occasionally and inci-
dentally. The real work of his life is that
of a scientist pure and simple. As a biolo-
gist, comparative anatomist and naturalist
he has no living equal. With those of
Tyndall and the late Charles Darwin he
stands at the head of English science in
our generation.

Prof. Huxley was born at Ealing, Mid-
dlesex, England, in 1825, studied medicine
at the Charing Cross Hospital, and in
1846 entered the navy as surgeon. In the
winter of the same year he had the good
fortune to be chosen as assistant surgeon
of the *Rattlesnake*, Capt. Owen Stanley.
The exploring expedition of this vessel
along the coast of Australia, New Guinea
and the Louisiade Archipelago afforded a
brilliant opportunity for the young natu-
ralist. Papers by him on marine animal
life were published by the Royal and Lin-
nean societies, one even attaining the
high honor of being included in the "Phil-
osophical Transactions," and on his re-
turn Mr. Huxley found that he had already
an established reputation in scientific
circles. In 1851 he was elected a Fellow
of the Royal society, and the next year
received one of the two gold medals an-
nually bestowed by the Society for distin-
guished scientific achievements. Since
then, every year has seen valuable con-
tributions to the literature of science from
his pen; he has held important lectur-
ships, and though constantly assailed as
an infidel and materialist, has as constant-
ly gained esteem among his brother
scientists the world over.

We can enumerate the titles of but a
few of his publications. He was joint
author with Mr. Tyndall in 1857 of "Ob-
servations on Glaciers," "Theory of the
Vertebrate Skull," (1858); "The Oceanic
Hydrozoa" (1859); "The Glyptodon" and
its "Osteology"; "Man's place in Nature"
(1863); "Lessons in Comparative Anatomy"
(1864); "Lessons in Elementary
Physiology" (1866); "Lay Sermons, Ad-
dresses and Reviews" (1870), perhaps his
most popular book; "Critiques and Ad-
dresses" (1873); "American Addresses"
(1877) and a sketch of "Hume" (1879)
are his principal works. Among the of-
fices that he has held are those of Profes-
sor in the Royal School of Mines, where
he delivered, besides the ordinary series
of scientific lectures, a practical and
most valuable series of lectures to work-
ingmen; member of the London School
Board; Professor of Natural History in
the Royal School of Mines; Professor of
Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons
and (in 1871) Lord Rector of Aberdeen
University. He has, of course, a long
array of titles from various scientific
bodies, and his degree of LL.D. was con-
ferred upon him by Edinburgh University.
When, a few months ago, the death of
Mr. Spottiswood left vacant the office of
President of the Royal Society, probably
the highest scientific honor existing in
Great Britain, Huxley's name was at once
recognized as the one to be selected. His
election was a foregone conclusion, not-
withstanding the bitter but numerically
weak opposition of the more conservative
members of the society. The most recent
way in which Prof. Huxley's name has been
brought to the public eye has been in con-
nection with a letter from him printed by
the editor of the *Agnostic Annual*. Prof.
Huxley, while admitting the authorship
of the letter, declares that its publication
was a breach of confidence. However
that may be, the letter is a very bold de-

fense of the Agnostic doctrine that it is
impossible to define the unknowable in
terms of the known. In the course of
the letter Mr. Huxley declares that he
himself first introduced the name of
Agnostic into modern philosophical dis-
cussion. Of course the fundamental
doctrine of this religious "knownothing-
ism" and even the name itself, are centur-
ies older than the Christian era.

Ceramics in the United States.

BY GEO. HENDERSON.

The first we hear of the Ceramic Art in
the United States is in 1659, when tiles,
bricks and coarse stone-ware were pro-
duced. In 1740 New York saw its first
establishment for the manufacture of
pottery and in 1770 the art had so far
progressed in Philadelphia that porcelain
was attempted, and we find the "South-
wark China Factory" offering prizes for
its encouragement and advancement.

As early as 1765 the number of pot-
teries springing up in the Colonies was so
great that it alarmed the English manu-
facturers. The wares were rude and de-
void of beauty, but they were beginning
to supply the home demand.

The resources of the United States for
the manufacture of pottery are not in the
least degree surpassed by those of Eng-
land. Josiah Wedgwood, a British pot-
ter of the Colonial period, declared that
the clays of Georgia, Florida and the
Carolinas were superior to the English,
and he made arrangements for a regular
supply of the "unaker" or Pensacola
clays.

The progress of this industry was one
of perpetual struggle. There was plenty
of material but it was undeveloped, labor
was likewise unskillful. Then, too, the
foreign manufacturers repeatedly lowered
the prices, which made the business a los-
ing one in this country. The tariff of
1861 gave the strongest incentive to com-
pete with the foreign goods and it pro-
ved a great stimulus, for the number of
potteries has increased wonderfully, un-
til now there are over one thousand.

The chief centres of this business are
Trenton, N. J., the "Staffordshire of
America," which is quite near the coal,
kaolin and spar mines and which has ex-
cellent railroad facilities and East Liver-
pool, O., which has been built up on ac-
count of the abundance of clays and coal
in Ohio and Indiana.

The quartz, after it is brought into the
mill is first thrown into a circular stone
trough and crushed into coarse powder
by two millstones, then it is shoveled into
the tubs of the burr mills, and in mingling
with the water to a milky fluid, is swept
with a ceaseless whirl till fine enough to
flow into the wooden troughs below—
here it is held for a few minutes, deposit-
ing its sand and coarser particles, then
the fine white fluid flows into wood-
en receptacles still farther down, where
in thirty hours it will become so hard that
it must be dug out in blocks for drying in
the kilns. After these lumps are further
refined they are taken to the "wedging"
room and placed upon disks that whirl
very rapidly. The clay controlled by the
guiding hand, rises and swells, flares and
falls into lines of beauty. The delicate
curves form one after another, first the taper-
ing base, then the slender neck and
drooping rim, then suddenly and before
we know it, the vase is completed. Where
greater certainty and uniformity of size
are desired, a mould is used.

The delicate pieces of pottery are next
sent to the drying room, where they
change in color from a delicate pea-green
to a dull white. After being thoroughly
deprived of moisture, they are placed in
the biscuit kiln, where they are trans-
formed into a brilliant white dense body,
which is now ready for enamelling or
painting overglaze. The "biscuit" must
be fired just so to obtain its full contrac-
tion, else the glaze will crack, or "craze"
as it is technically called.

The ware is now ready for the artist
and after one more burning is sent to the
salesroom.

The artistic department of one of the
large potteries of Trenton is especially
interesting, as an illustration of the higher
channels through which the industry
is bending. One is attracted by a mag-
nificent bust of Cleopatra, the paste of
which is as hard and as fine as the pur-
est marble.

Although at present we cannot manu-
facture the very finest pottery, enough
however has been done to prove that
there is in store for America, a ceramic
independence of countries that furnish
her, since she possesses both the inven-
tive genius and unlimited supplies of the
best raw material.

Postal Card Collecting.

A great many stamp collectors neglect
the important branch of philately, post
card collecting. Very little has been
written on the above subject so I will en-

deavor to express my views. In the first
place, most people say post cards are too
large and bulky, others think they are too
expensive while another class are of the
opinion that they are too numerous. In
some cases the above is true, but it must
be remembered that there are not near as
many post cards as there are stamps for
the reason they have been in use but a
few years and so if their size is great,
the number is small and a fine collection
would not be very bulky. As to the ex-
pense, there are a few that are very rare
but the majority of them can be purchased
unused at from three to ten cents each,
and 1,000 varieties is considered a fine
collection. There are many ready made
albums but I prefer a blank album and
with the aid of a good catalogue one can
arrange them to suit his taste. The best
way to do this is to write the names at
the top of the page, or use printed slips
which you can obtain of any stamp dealer.
Cut slits in the pages so that the corners
of the card will slip into them and be held
securely; this is much better than to
paste them into the book as they can be
easily removed if desired, without injury
to either card or album. They should
only be placed on one side of the page and
plenty of room should be left for new
issues. A well arranged collection of
post cards is very attractive, especially
if they are all unused. Some collectors
keep their entire envelopes and post cards
together, but it is much better to keep
them separate as a good collection of
either is enough for one volume. BY E. N. C.

The Stamp Dealers of the World.

We have just issued the Stamp Deal-
ers of the World, containing the address
of over 600 stamp dealers in all parts of
the world. The list is as complete as is
possible to make it and contains 29 pages
and cover and is very valuable to both
dealer and collector. Price, post free, 11
cents, or three for 27 cents. Address,
J. M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village,
N. H.

BARGAIN LIST.

A new International Stamp Al-
bum, 6th ed. post free, \$1.
A \$1.50 Int. Album, almost as good as
new. A few stamps have been hinged in
and removed. 7th ed. Price post free,
\$1.
Another \$1.50 Int., 7th ed., pages whole
but covers worn a little around the edges,
90c.
A \$1.50 Int. 5th ed. good condition, with
350 varieties stamps therein, only \$1.75.
A \$1.50 Int. 7th ed. fair condition, 85c.
Youth's Companion Album, new, 85c.
Imperial Stamp Album. A few stamps
have been inserted on hinges and re-
moved without hurting the book, price 75c.
A 7th ed. Int. shopworn and the covers
worn a little. 85c.
A 3rd ed. Int. (Cloth, \$2.50) fine con-
dition, \$1.10.
1 copy of the "Pennsylvania Packet and
Daily Advertiser" of May 25th, 1787, in
good condition. Price, 50 cents.
\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$500 Con-
federate bills, in splendid condition.
Price, \$1.25 for the set.
20 Colonial bills of 1770, etc., in fair to
fine condition, 10 to 25 cents each, or \$3
for the lot.

COINS.

Dollar, 1872, "C. C." circulated, \$1.50.
Trade Dollar, 1874, proof, \$2.75.
1875, " " 2.50.
1878, " " 2.25.
1879, " " 2.00.
1880, " " 2.00.
10 nickels, 1883, old style, \$1.
" " " " " without cents \$1.
Twenty Cent Piece, 1875, uncir. \$.50
1876, barely cir. .60
1877, proof, 5.00
1878, " 4.00
1795, silver dollar, fine, \$3.
Half Dollar, 1795, good, \$2.50.
1815, " 5.00
Silver 3c. piece, 1854, very fine, \$.25.
1866 " " .50.
1868 proof " 1.00.
1870 " " 1.50.
1871 very fine, 1.25.
1872, Two Cent piece, fine, .50
Half Dollar, 1809, fair condition, \$.85
1813 " " .75
1827 proof, 1.00
1828 " " 1.00
1831 circulated, .75
1835 " " .85
\$2 1-2 gold piece, 1873, barely cir. \$3.50
23 varieties of bronze and white metal
medals, fair to proof. Will sell the lot
for \$5 and if purchaser is not satisfied
with his trade, he can return them and I
will return his money.
Spanish dollar, 1782 fair, \$1.50.
1821 " 1.25.
Mexican dollar, 1876, fine, \$1.25.
Georgius III, 1813 3 sh. fair, \$1.50
Half Dollar, 1821 fine \$.75
1807 good .85
1826 barely cir. .85
1859 " " .85
1836 milled edge,
barely cir. 5.00
1833 " " .85
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Nature.

BY W. S. BECKMAN.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever." While in many cases this quotation is far from being absolute truth, yet, when applied to the undeified, inanimate objects of Nature, one may fully realize that in them we find exemplified to the fullest extent that "Things of beauty are a joy forever." As these articles are intended merely for the collector of minerals it is somewhat improper to consider objects lying outside of this domain. However, having before me a few specimens of a very pretty substance of interest to the collecting community as well as the non-collecting population, I beg the reader's attention to the consideration of a few of the already well-known facts concerning this substance. The substance is a fossiliferous, resinous gum. And now having told that much you all know at once that it is about AMBER we are to speak.

One of the first-mentioned accounts we find of amber is written by a Scot, Hector Boece, who describes it something after this style: "All the parts of this gum, when it was broken, was of the hew of gold and schone lyke the licht of a candill." He says that two years before the appearance of his book (1524), there arrived a great lump of this gum to his town. It was broken up by the rude people and it was soon discovered that its odor was grand for the "insens that is maid in the kirkes."

Its name was originally Electron among the Greeks, from its so readily becoming electrically excited when rubbed; or as the old writer previously quoted says: "and so attractive of nature that it draws str, flax or hemmes of clathis to it in the same manner as does an adamant stone grow." This property is plainly observable when a piece of amber is quickly rubbed and then applied to a bit of lint, which it will attract as a magnet does a needle.

Of a clear, bright golden-yellow color, capable of receiving a high polish and being comparatively scarce, one is not surprised that amber has been classified among the gems. Amber beads have been worn about the neck for protection against throat diseases and while the idea may be foolish, I still think it much better to recommend their use than to back up some of the many electrical belts, rings and other devices that are now extensively placed before the public.

The true amber is found chiefly around the Baltic sea. It has been found in this country, and in fact it is liable to be found at any place where the tertiary formation is exposed. Thus at Martha's Vineyard mention has been made of amber finds, but there seems to be considerable doubt about its belonging to the same true specie as that of the Baltic. In 1883 however, I believe Prof. Geo. Runz exhibited a piece of considerable size found at my native place, the island of Nantucket, that is identical with that of the Baltic specie. Its use as material for mouth-pieces to pipe and cigarette holders is universal. Its favor for these purposes are undoubtedly found in the fact of its perfect clearness, smooth and non-absorptive properties.

Hugh Miller speaking of this gum, says: "To the geologist this precious gum of the Tertiary ages is fraught with a peculiar interest from the circumstance that it forms the best of all matrices for the preservation of organisms of all kinds. Mosses, fungi and liverworts, are plants of so delicate a structure that they are rarely or never preserved in shale or stone; but specimens of all three have been locked up in amber in a state of a most perfect keeping." Forty-eight different species of trees and shrubs of this Tertiary growth are recognized. However, more wonderful than these mosses are the little insects encased in their "crystal coffin."

In the amber, even the most delicate ephemera that ever sported for a single summer evening in a forest glade, and then perished as night came on, are preserved in a state of perfect entrenchment. In the amber of Prussia eight hundred different kinds of insects have been determined. Many of these insects are in no way related to the species of to-day. The origin of this gum was until of late, shrouded in mystery. It is only of late that the true specie of the pine from which it exuded became known. The *Pinus succinifer* is the true source of the Tertiary amber, and the gum formed as now the gum forms upon our indigenous species. According to an ancient fable amber is the tears of the sisters of Phæthon, who, after his death were changed into poplars.

The largest mass of amber yet found weighs 12 pounds. Pieces containing the larger insects are generally cloudy around the insect, which is probably due to the movements of the insect struggling to escape. However some of the insects

are beautifully preserved and even the long antennae are not moved a bit from their natural position.

Miller says: "The little flutterers must have settled on the bleeding trunks of the *Pinus succinifer*, and stuck fast, and the afterflow of sap covered them over." This admirably explains perhaps the majority of these captures, but even among the few specimens now lying before me, I find some examples that I cannot reconcile myself to lay to the above excellent idea. I prefer not to state at this place any idea that might reasonably account for some of the little prisoners in the golden-cells, but leave each reader with the inspiration of the writer who says:

"Pretty in amber to observe the forms
Of hairs, or straws, or dirt, or grubs, or worms,
The things, we know, are neither rich nor rare,
But wonder how the mischief they got there."

Wampum.

BY E. P. NEWCOMER.

Wampum is the common English name for shell beads, used for ornament and as currency among the Northern Algonquians and Iroquois tribes of American Indians. Wampum was made chiefly on Long Island and around New York bay. There are two kinds: wampum or wampuinpeag which is white and was made from the conch or perrinkle, and the suckanhook black, or rather purple, made from the hard shell clam and worth twice as much as the white. The shell was broken in pieces, rubbed smooth on a stone till about the thickness of a pipe stem, then cut, and pierced with a drill. They were then strung or made into belts. As money, its use passed to the New England French and Dutch settlers, being known to the French as "porcelaine" and to the Dutch as "zwant." In the Dutch colony, four beads, and at a later period six beads passed as a stiver; in New England it varied also and was fixed in 1640 at six beads for a penny. The wampum was strung and used by the Indians for earrings, necklaces, bracelets and belts. It was used in all treaties and on all public occasions, a belt or string being given to bind each article of a treaty and a treaty belt being delivered as a solemn ratification. On these, figures were elaborately worked with the different colored beads, not arbitrary, but according to a recognized system, so as to form a record of the event that could be read.

Relics of the Cherokees.

BY J. M. HARKINS.

Although a half century has gone, the red man of the Cherokee nation has left behind him evidences of that once powerful race, that will remain forever. Take for instance the reed-bordered Oostanaula and follow its meandering course from the dark blue Cohutta Mountains, to the "city of seven hills" and one cannot fail to be impressed and find relics—the work of skillful hands—of five decades past. What does one find? Mounds, in which are buried the tomahawk, the barbed arrow point, weapons and the pipe of peace, besides carved images of various designs. In the old fields, too, around their old ball and dancing grounds the arrow heads may be found innumerable—thick as bullets on an old battle field.

A friend of mine whose home is on the banks of the Oostanaula, has the finest collection of Indian relics I have ever seen, all of which were picked up on the banks of that Indian-named river. Among these relics which appear decidedly curious, is an image of a dog, carved on an unnatural looking stone. Nearly all the image remains. Another finely carved specimen is a long, round blue-looking stone, about two feet in length, is hollow from end to end and is about the size of one's arm. For what use it was made, I do not know. I might say in conclusion, that no land under the sun is so rich for the study of Natural History, the Ornithologist, and certainly no land on earth is richer in minerals than the land of the sun—the good old South.

Notes on Some Kentucky Birds.

IV.

BY L. O. PINDAR.

BROWN THRASHER. A very common summer visitant, arriving in March or April and making the woods gay with his melodies and carols, until October, when he departs for the "Sunny South," to sing mid the groves and tangles there while he shiver through the reign of the Ice Queen until Spring comes again in all her beauty, and the summer songsters flit through leafy boughs once more. I heard two thrashers sing in concert once, and it was one of the most beautiful bits of bird music I ever heard. The thrasher builds a nest in a bush, brush pile or on the ground and lays four to six eggs of a white color thickly spotted with small reddish-brown dots. The thrasher is mainly a ground bird and is one of the few which sing on the ground.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are inserted for 5 cents per month. Over 24 words and not exceeding 48, 10 cents per month. This column is open to the public at these rates, whether they are subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a brown Gum stamp album containing space for 600 stamps. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Exchange desired with stamp collectors in all parts of the world. Philatelic papers wanted, complete volumes especially desired. Address N. E. Carter, Delavan, Wis.

A good Rosewood Piccolo for best offer of minerals or card type. S. Mac, 1,080 Ellsworth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

For Curiosity World numbers 1, 4 and 9, a 1795 cent, thick, worth \$1; for number 9, V or shield nickel of 1883; for any two numbers, a dime of 1853 without arrows. A. J. Cronan, Box 92, Quakertown, Pa.

A shark's tooth 10 inches long and 2 large boxes of fine ricks for best offer of stamps. Edward B. Waite, Box 175, West Newton, Mass.

325 good square-cut postmarks for 2 V nickels without cents; 12 fossils for every V nickel. W. L. Bienholz, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

A piece of petrified moss for every foreign coin, half cent or 25 different tin tags. J. R. Craigie, Jackson Minn.

I will exchange United States stamps for a telegraph instrument and pay part in cash. Harry English, Decatur, Ill.

I will give 100 good foreign stamps mixed, for every 500 common United States stamps sent me, not to contain over 100 of a kind. E. P. Newcomer, Decatur, Ill.

A \$500 confederate bond and \$10 bill, Rogers "Index of 47,000 words," agricultural and scientific papers for stamps of all countries. W. B. Jackson, 607 Bennington St., East Boston, Mass.

225 Indian beads and 6 arrow heads for offers; 10 tin tags or 1 bead for 10 different stamps from any country outside of Europe or any island except England. John L. Sticht, Canajoharie, N. Y.

Philatelic papers to exchange for others; send list giving name, volume and number and exchange price. Publishers please send samples and dealers send lists. W. A. Macdonald, Box 204, Eldon, P. E. I., Canada.

A set of eggs or 4 var. of minerals, named, for a U. S. Half cent or 2 large cents or 2 silver 3 cents or 30 revenue, medicine or department stamps. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

30 good postmarks for every first class bird's egg catalogued at 10 cents or more; 100 for every set of four, (data.) E. F. Gamble, Tecumseh, Mich.

I will give 25 foreign and U. S. stamps none common for every labeled mineral or Indian arrow head sent me. S. Mac, 2,080 Ellsworth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

12 fine white cards, no chromo, with name thereon for every 76 stamps sent me. O. H. Givier, Naperville, Ill.

A first class set of the Least fly catcher eggs or Indago Bunting for a good spear head or 4 arrow heads; eggs to exchange with all collectors. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

I want numbers 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the Curiosity World, Vol. II, No. 2 Quaker City Philatelist, Vol. I, number 5 Philatelic Gazette. Fine stamps to exchange; send list of all your duplicates. E. W. Voute, 307 Webster Ave., Chicago, Ill.

100 well mixed foreign stamps for 100 square cut envelope stamps or postmarks. Good foreign stamps both used and unused and old United States stamps. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H.

Wanted, stamps of all kinds; send for list to S. G. Currie, Plainfield, N. J.

An unused newspaper stamp for every postage stamp catalogued at 10 cents and stamp for reply. Also higher values for rare Department or stamps not in my collection. Herbert H. McNamara, Tower, Minn.

Document, match and medicine stamps to exchange for others; send list of my wants and duplicates. W. H. Smith, Worcester, Mass.

Will exchange for guitar or banjo in good condition, one eight jointed telescope, brass, with adjustable shade for lamp; write stating particulars. F. V. Humphrey, Hinsdale, Ill.

100 foreign stamps including 50 varieties, for every foreign post card (no Canada) 100 varieties stamps for every unused foreign post card. Postal cards for the same. Stamps etc, to exchange. Dealers send lists and I will send mine. W. S. Kinzer, cor Liberty St., and Bealle Ave., Worcester, O.

For a nickel watch that will keep correct time, 50 foreign stamps, 30 postmarks, one pair Chinese chopsticks, 20 shells from Lake Erie, 5 novels, 25 square cut envelope stamps. Daniel A. Crowley, 45 North Moore St., New York City.

Price list of bird's eggs wanted; each egg must be warranted to be as represented. Walter D. Makepeace, Andover, Mass.

Ten varieties of stamps, Argentine, Barbados, Honduras, Peru, U. S. War, Bulgaria and unused Heligoland for a V nickel without cents. W. A. Rowley, 541 37th St., Chicago, Ill.

Minerals, eggs, tags and curiosities to exchange for those not in my collection. A pair of roller skates to exchange for a Stanley Gibson's Imperial album. Ulysses Clark, Pipestone, Minn.

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Will exchange "Munson's Complete Phonograph" (cloth bound) almost new, for an "Imperial stamp album" containing stamps, or offers. Exchange desired with stamp or curiosity collectors. W. G. Cureton, Chester, S. C.

I desire to exchange Revenue stamps with collectors. In writing to me please state what catalogue you wish to exchange by and also the stamps desired. Chas. G. Woodworth, Box 3,003 Denver, Colo.

38 old style half dollars and vols LVIII and LIX of the Youth's Companion for other things of equal value. W. M. Hutcheson, North Star, Pa.

I will give any of the following articles, viz:—25 foreign stamps, 15 fine California postmarks, 10 extra good autographs, 15 good tin tags, 1 5 inch dia Cal, star fish, 1 2x4 Bark of Cal, big trees, 15 fine different Pacific ocean shells, 1 1x1 good fossil, 1 large comb back, 1 Chinese lottery ticket, 5 very large almost transparent Pacific ocean pebbles, 1 bottle Pacific ocean water, 1 spec petrified Cal, wood, 1 Chinese insurance paper, or 1 large bright blue mineral, for every perfect Indian arrow head sent me. The lot for 12 large perfect arrow heads. Willard M. Wood, 2,105 Webster St., San Francisco Cal.

Rare United States and foreign postage and revenue stamps and entire post cards to exchange for the same; postmarks from every state in the Union and many foreign stamps. E. R. Hoar, Ashburnham, Mass.

Vol. 42 or 43 Youth's companion for best offers in stamps, minerals or curiosities; 50 different foreign stamps for every V nickel without cents. J. H. Pratt, 700 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Conn.

For Exchange: curiosity Hunter, valuable to coin collectors, 1873-74; Scott's Revenue Stamp catalogue 1874; La Posta Mondiale, Italy, Vol. 1, 1873-74; American Journal of Philately, 1870 and 1873; Stamp collector's chronicle, St. John, N. B., 1873; Gazette des Timbres, Paris, 1872; Durbin's 1875 catalogue; The Philatelist 1871; Stamp collector's Magazine, 1870-1-2-3, and many other old and rare magazines, also South American and Mexican stamps, for common Canada and United States by the thousand. W. H. Bruce, Box 283, Hartford, Conn.

100 mixed stamps for each arrow head or for 3 philatelic papers; parties having papers to exchange please send lists; hectograph recipe for ten philatelic papers. C. O. Henbest, Marshall, Ill.

100 foreign stamps including St. Helena, U. S. of Columbia, Confederate States and British Guiana, or 5 different birds' eggs for offers. R. K. Somers, 185 Kennard St., Cleveland, O.

I will give 100 assorted foreign stamps for every 100 assorted United States stamps sent me. Charles W. Peugh, Kossuth, Ind.

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50 varieties of foreign stamps for every 10 mixed Mexico and South American or 25 assorted Match stamps. W. W. Hurlbert, Salem, Mass.

Artificial Gems.

BY X. Y. Z.

The great value attached to precious stones led at an early period to successful attempts to imitate them. The Egyptians possessed the art of coloring glass and among their mixtures they produced excellent imitations of the most beautiful gems, so that as Pliny states, it was hard to distinguish the false from the real.

Various ancient authors mention artificial sapphires, emeralds and hyacinths. Some of the first named were of such a huge size that they were used in the construction of statues, as that of Serapis in the Egyptian labyrinth which was 13-12 feet high. An obelisk composed of four artificial emeralds, in the temple of Jupiter was sixty feet long and six feet broad. If these were made only of pieces of colored glass they were extraordinary productions.

The discovery of the preparation of gold and bin-oxide of tin in the 17th century afforded the means of giving a ruby-red color to glass and artificial rubies were then first made. In modern times the art has been wonderfully perfected by the French.

A glass of great lustre and perfectly transparent, called strass is prepared as the basis of the composition. It resembles the diamond in rich refraction power as in its other qualities, except hardness. Artificial diamonds are made from pure strass which without the addition of other matter is cut into brilliants and roses.

In 1847 M. Ebelmen conceived the idea of forming various mixtures with some ingredients volatile at very high heat. By dispersion of these in the furnace the other ingredients should crystallize as substances held in solution in liquids should crystallize when these are evaporated. He thus proposed to produce the sapphire, cornidum or ruby and other precious stones. He obtained the spinelle ruby by mixing together 30 parts of magnesia, 25 of alumina, 1 of chlorate of potash and 35 of boracic acid and subjecting 500 grammes, (8716 grains) of the compound to high temperature in the muffle of a furnace for eight days.

M. Ebelmen's researches have been successfully continued by Mauross, Eisner, Deville and others and many artificial minerals have been prepared. At one time the great establishment of M. Bourguignon in Paris was the most famous manufactory of artificial gems in the world. About 100 workmen were constantly engaged in preparing and fusing the mixtures and cutting and polishing the stones. Artificial gems can only be distinguished from the genuine stones by the closest scrutiny by those experienced in such matters.

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California gold bangles are all the rage now, for pins, bracelets, and rings. We have just received a large stock direct from San Francisco, Cal., and can furnish them at the following prices: Quar. dol. size, 28 cents; half dol. size, 50 cents, either round or octagon, post free. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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Hints on Insect Collecting.

There is no branch of Natural History work that offers more attractions to the student than insect collecting. This book contains much valuable information as to the outfit necessary for collecting, the manner of preparing and mounting insects, the preparation of a cabinet, etc., and every collector should possess a copy. The book is recommended by the Agassiz Association and is mentioned in their hand book. Price, 11 cents each, 3 for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

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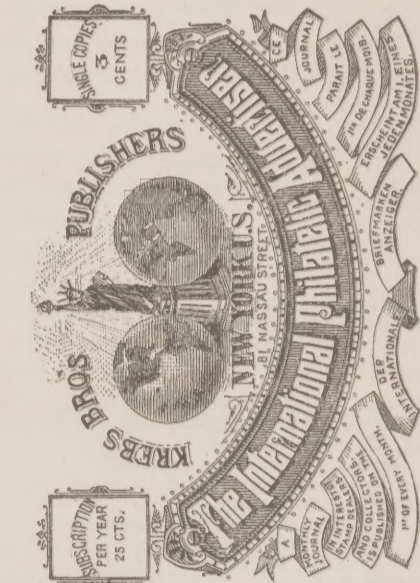
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Advanced Collectors will find it to their interest to correspond with me.

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Always enclose stamp if you desire an answer.

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Guatemala '86 prov 5 var comp 75c. *Stellaland 4 var \$1.25. Porto Rico '82 20c lilac 10c. *Tonga 1d 7c. 2d 12c. *Macao '84 50c on 100 violet \$1. *Decan 2 annas green (skeleton type) 50c. *Bolivia '69 50c blue 75c. '61 6c green 10c. 100c orange \$1. U S '69 30c 75c. Postage due 30c 8c. 50c 12c. *War 10 var 50c. '75 5c blue env uncut 10c. Cape 4d blue triangular, 12c and many others.

Approval Sheets

For beginners and advanced collectors on receipt of 2c stamp. Reference or deposit required from parties not known to me. Satisfaction guaranteed. Price lists free.

A. LOHMEYER,

933 Milton Place, Baltimore, Md.

Lines on an Old Coin.

BY E. H. HASTINGS.

This coin has passed through many hands;
Long years has been the sport of fate;
Worn are the emblems, once so clear,
And faint the motto, and the date.
Ah! what a history it has,
Could it have voice the tale to tell,
Since, full a century ago,
All lustrous from the mint it fell.
In silken purse and leathern bag,
Alike it found a brief repose;
Sometimes a gift, again a loss,
Sorrow and joy this traveler knows.
Rare sentiment it holds for us,
This time-worn relic of the past.
Its life a poem, humble, sweet,
Lived in the years that slipped so fast.
And now a haven from the world,
In this collection it has found;
A silent witness of the past,
With well worn honor justly crowned.
Warwick, Mass., Sept., 2nd., 1887.

Monte Tafonato.

BY J. W.

Monte Tafonato—that is, mountain which has been perforated—is one of the highest mountains on the island of Corsica, and is famous for an opening drilled as it were, through it, near the summit. It is a solid mass of fine red porphyry, nearly 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, and forming the buttress or prop of another mountain 600 or 700 feet higher. The opening to which this mountain owes its name is several yards in diameter and has its axis so inclined and situated as to afford at certain seasons a passage to a flood or shaft of light-beams from the sun when near its setting such as to form a strange and striking contrast with the sombre shadow of the mountain, athwart which they in such a weird-like fashion stream. No one can say exactly what may have been the geological cause of this singular perforation, and mean time, in defect of a theory which will satisfy a scientific enquirer, an interesting legend is at hand to account for it. This has found such favor with a learned Abbe, who lately wrote the history of Corsica that he gives it as the true explanation, nothing doubting. This perforation, he assures us with all gravity, is the work of a demon, who in a fit of spleen did it, to spite, as he foolishly thought, the good St. Martin! St. Martin surely could have no objection to the creation of a new avenue for light in so dark a world, and the demon surely outwitted himself if he thought this would be a source of grief to the holy man.

But indeed this perforation is difficult to explain, and the Abbe Galetti is not without reason for adhering to the old legend as the true account. The phenomenon is a rare one, and a reck perforation sometimes classed along with it is now admitted to be an artificial excavation. This is a tunnel under the road from Ponzos passes just where it enters Naples, near the sea. It is about half a mile in length, ninety-six feet in height and twenty-five or thirty feet wide; but it was originally a stone quarry, and it was the quarrymen who, before they left off working it, opened it up from end to end. Another mountain in Norway is drilled through similarly into a funnel-shaped perforation of the same length and with an opening 140 feet wide, such that the sun may at certain seasons be seen pouring its rays through it so that they stream beyond. But this opening is not, like the one near Naples, of merely human origin, but must be a work of Nature itself and is perhaps due in part to the action of the water at an epoch of the remote past when the mountain lay submerged in the surging deep.

Our readers would do well to look over our Exchange column. There are many bargains offered there each issue and this number is no exception to the general rule.

Stamps, How to Buy and Sell.

This book, by the well-known author, H. J. Miron, contains much valuable information for both dealer and collector, and is having a very large sale. Every Philatelist should have a copy, and by a careful perusal of its contents he would know many things about the science of Philately that he never knew before. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three copies for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

Rare Coins.

Probably nearly every one in the United States knows that there are many coins in circulation that are worth much more than their face value, but they wouldn't know them if they should meet them in the middle of the street. We have issued a Premium Coin List, containing 94 illustrations, and giving our buying prices for every U. S. coin worth over face value. Every one who handles money should possess a copy. Price, 10 cents, or 3 for 25 cents, post free. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.



THE HAIRY WOODPECKER.—*Picus Villosus.*

Indiana's Woodpeckers.

BY LE GRAND T. MYER

Woodpeckers are the characteristic Zygodyctyles, i. e. yoke-toed, having the toes in pairs, one front and the other back.

They all have wedge-shaped bills with a tip rivaling the hardest wood in texture; in fact it might be called steel. The bills of all birds are used for defensive and gastronomic purposes and we will not be surprised when we find that the woodpecker, with his, takes at food from the heart of the living tree. It is really the cause of his name; wood, and pecker, a digger, which describes him exactly. To elaborate and increase the nicety of his work, they are provided with a tongue far longer than the bill so that when the burrow of an insect is found; the tongue darts in, and being armed with a barb and supplied with a viscid saliva, the poor victim is soon in the gullet of his captor. Nearly all their food is obtained in this way.

For breeding purposes the bill is again used for drilling holes in trees. The strength of the neck of this genera is considerable. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker drills holes in live trees to the depth of five feet, often under a knot to seclude rain. When in search of food, Audobon says it knocks off chips of bark several inches long with such rapidity as to remind one of an approaching storm.

But, alas, this species like the Snowy Owl, Great White Heron and Carolina Parrot is rapidly becoming exterminated.

To enable them to perch more securely against the vertical trees and to counteract the momentum produced by the oscillations of the head they are supplied with a tail consisting normally of seven spikes with many secondary ones.

The eggs of the entire genera are a lustrous white, unless discolored by rain staining them; and are deposited on the bare chips at the bottom of their holes.

Picus Villosus.—HAIRY WOODPECKER. A tolerable rare resident, being much more common during the fall migrations than at any other time. Breeds nesting in the "dark and deep woods," drilling the nesting-site in the terminal branch of a high tree. Authorities speak of it being found in orchards but my experience does not confirm it. Eggs a pure crystalline white; four or five, measuring .85x.65.

Picus Pubescens.—DOWNY WOODPECKER. This is much more common than the preceding and might be called a miniature Hairy, for it is its exact counterpart. It is also more social, placing their nests in orchards, rail-fences and even in old log cabins. It is often called "Sapsucker," but the term is more properly applied to the Nuthatches. The eggs are glossy-white; four to six in number, measuring about .74x.62, being only slightly smaller than the preceding species.

Centurus Carolinus.—RED BELLIED WOODPECKER. A very rare summer resident and not common autumn visitor, being distributed more easterly and northerly. It is a beautiful bird, being black with alternate dots of white, a carmine

colored crest and the belly having a delicate bluish-like scarlet color. It has a discordant, harsh voice, making the bleak woods resound with its cry, "chow, chow" uttered in rapid succession. During the breeding season it is found in the solitary and unfrequented forests, where its domicile is placed in a lofty tree. The eggs are white, measuring about 1x.85, and usually five in number.

Melanerpes Erythrocephalus.—RED HEADED WOODPECKER. One of our most common summer residents barring perhaps the Yellow Hammer. Arriving early in April, he, until domestic duties require his attention, enlivens us with his rat-a-tat-tat on dead limb or branches. It is a brilliantly-colored bird, being "red, white and black" or blue. Breeds; nesting in orchards or in the woods, most frequently near habitations. The eggs are glassy white, four to six in number and measure about 1.10x.80.

Colaptes Auratus.—YELLOW SHAFTED FLICKER. If I had time and the space of the WORLD was not so valuable I would attempt to write out a list of the popular names of this bird; as it is I will use only the "official." Possibly all of us have read of its wonderful laying capacity; I have trustworthy accounts of their laying seventy-three eggs in seventy-five days and thinking it would make a good note I attempted to verify it. I tried several, but with my usual luck, they invariably left the nest; however one foolish bird returned and deposited three more when the terrible "small boy" spoiled it and science was deprived of a possibly good note. The species is distributed throughout the United States west of the Rocky Mountains and is the most beautifully-colored of the genera. The male and female resemble each other but may be distinguished by having black cheek patches looking a little like "burnsides." The nest is placed in trees varying in height from ten to forty feet; the nest often being dug to the depth of three feet. The set varies from six to nine, the average being seven, measuring 1.10x.90, cannot hardly be distinguished with certainty from those of the Red Headed. The eggs when first laid show the beautiful refraction of the yolk, charming the artist and shames the oldest and most beautiful china or porcelain ware. The Indians often use it for food but owing to its diet, like the rest of the genera, has an intolerable odor and would hardly tempt the parvenue.

It has been for some time reported that there existed in Madras a plant the leaves of which, when chewed, destroyed the taste to such an extent that one could not distinguish sugar from sand. The report was supposed to be founded on a mere notion. Specimens received in Europe prove it to be a reality. The plant is *Gymnema sylvestre*. The use of such a plant in removing nausea from the disagreeable doses, and in many other ways is apparent. It belongs, however, to a natural order, *Asclepiadaceae*, which have patent powers of their own, and it is yet to be known whether its power of de-

stroying taste may not also destroy the value of the medicines it may be used with.

Russian archaeologists, who are under the patronage of the Czar, are working throughout the empire or wherever the imperial armies open up new fields. They have done much during the past decade to illuminate dark blanks in Byzantine and earlier records. One of the most interesting of their discoveries is just announced. At Tashkend have recently been found extensive Greek remains, chiefly terracotta vases, silver-gilt ornaments and small statuettes, all purely Hellenic, and obviously bespeaking a common domestic use. This discovery shows that the frontiers of the Greek Kingdom in Bactria must have extended many hundred miles further northeast than has heretofore been supposed. Probably it is the beginning of a series of developments giving to Central Asia an entirely novel archaeological interest.

California Gold.

California gold bangles are all the rage now, for pins, bracelets, and rings. We have just received a large stock direct from San Francisco, Cal., and can furnish them at the following prices: Quar. dol. size, 28 cents; half dol. size, 56 cents, either round or octagon, post free. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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Key to the Nests and Eggs

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North American Birds.

—BY—

OLIVER DAVIE.

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THEODORE JASPER, A. M.

Every Ornithologist and Oologist should have a copy of this book. 124 pages, 3 1-2 inch, printed from large clear type on extra heavy tinted super-calandered book paper with fine heavy covers. Price, post free, \$1.00. To everyone who buys a copy within the next 30 days, we will give a three months subscription to this paper. Address

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Lake Village, Belknap Co., New Hampshire.

500 extra fine all different stamps for \$7. Everett Stamp Co., 3 Sachem St., Lynn, Mass. *14

\$125.50 in Confederate Bills, 25 cents. G. J. Bauer, 73 Front St., Rochester, N. Y. *15

SUBscription Bureau. All newspapers and magazines at low rates. Box 43, Hurlock, Md. *14

CLAY Stones from Conn.; very curious; 10 c per doz. E. L. Smith, Cornish Centre, N. H. *14

BRITISH WAR MEDALS wanted. Address Box 408 Toronto, Can. *15

AUTOGRAPHS for sale at very low prices. Send for list. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass. *16

A year's subscription to the Buckeye State Collector or a rare stamp or curiosity only 25c. E. J. Smith, Portsmouth, Ohio.

SHEETS of Stamps on approval; Agents wanted; liberal commission. Wm. K. Mix, Box 1613, New Haven, Conn. *15

THE Youth's Leisure Hour is devoted to literature and collecting in all its branches. Sample face. F. C. Johnson, Boonville, N. Y. *14

INDIAN Arrowheads.—A new specimen sent postpaid for 11c. H. Warner, 200 Lex. Ave. New York City. *14

35 var. U. S. Rev. 25c. 50 Foreign stamps for 2c. stamp. Send stamp and reference for an approval sheet. D. J. Ward, Wooster, O. *14

Birds Eggs. Specimens and Supplies. Lowest stock, lowest price. New 20c. cat. 2c. Frank H. Lottin, Abilene, N. Y.

Sheets on approval at 33 1-3 per cent. com. 200 stamps, fine assortment, 15c. Address A. E. Warren, Box 1981, Montreal, Can. *15

COINS! 4 U. S. 1-2 cents. 20c. 3 Colonial bills, 50c. U. S. copper coins cheap. Price list free. G. J. Bauer, 73 Front St., Rochester, N. Y.

FOR sale cheap. Indian pipes, stone and flint tools, fossil ferns, trinitites and curiosities. List for 2c. stamp. O. D. Walbridge, Marseilles, Ill. *16

LOOK me a fine approval sheet to every one sending me a 2c. stamp and promise to return in 10 days. Dirt cheap prices 33 1-3 per cent. W. J. Hawks, 1018 Hopkins Ave. Balto. Md. *13

SUBscribe for the "Gossip"—the new stamp and coin journal, 25 cents per year; a large 8 page 24 column paper; send for sample copy. Trial adv. 25 cents. Gossip Pub. Co., Box 424, Ottawa, Ont.

100 Circulars mailed for only 20c. Give us a trial order. We guarantee satisfaction. Eclipse Circular Mailing Agency, Hurlock, Md. *14

BLACK Hills Minerals. BAD Land's Fossils. SIOUX Indian Relics.

3,000 Oregon Bird Arrow Heads. Illus Catalogue. L. W. STILLWELL, Deadwood, D. T.

4 sea urchins, 2 starfish, 1 card moss, 2 pebbles, 1 oz. garnet sand, 1 scallop shell for 50c. Sword-fish swords 2 and 3 ft. long, \$1.50 and \$2. Sand dollar, 10c. Lobster's tail, 20c. Ivory nut 15c. Price list for stamp. Jennie de R. Ricker, South Berwick, Maine. *14

RIVAL No. 9, contains 50 var. including Repub. Dominican, U. S. of Columbia, Ecuador, Portugal, Straits Settlements, Guatemala, Virgin Islands, Cape of Good Hope, Trinidad, Mexico, Hawaii, etc. There are no common stamps in this packet. Price 50 cents. Price list on application. F. B. VOLLAND, Charlton, Iowa.

THE CURIOSITY WORLD,

H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

Entered at the post office at Lake Village, N. H., as Second Class Matter.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1887.

OFFICIAL ORGAN

— OF THE —

NEW ENGLAND PHILATELIC UNION.

To Whom it May Concern.

Having decided to travel through the Southern and Western states during the ensuing year, it is necessary for me to put my publishing business in the hands of someone else. I have therefore transferred the *Museum Bulletin* to Mr. John M. Hubbard, publisher of the *CURIOSITY WORLD*. All subscribers to the *Bulletin* will receive the *WORLD* until the expiration of their subscription, and advertisers will receive the same space in the *WORLD* as they paid for in our paper. If anyone is not satisfied with this arrangement, I will cheerfully refund the money paid me.

The *Museum Bulletin* has been a success and fully up to our anticipations; we have enjoyed liberal patronage and desire to express our thanks to those who have helped to make our paper a success. The *CURIOSITY WORLD* is by far the best paper of its class published, and with a circulation of 2,500 copies per issue, we believe that both subscribers and advertisers will be satisfied with the change.

Very Respectfully,

CHARLES P. WILCOMB,

Lake Village, N. H., Sept. 14, 1887

Every subscriber to the *Museum Bulletin* will receive just as many numbers of the *WORLD* as is due them of that paper. Where one has subscribed to both papers the number of the *Bulletin* their due will be added to the time their subscription to the *WORLD* expires.

Henry Clotz, the exchange superintendent of the A. P. A., is a "hustler." Twelve of the 19 applications for membership in the August number of the official organ were proposed by him.

The Collectors' Journal, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has made its appearance. It is well gotten up and we hope it has come to stay. The first issue contains a portrait of James Chalmers.

There are 2,500,000 dogs in the state of Texas. They cost the owners 5 cents a day, they cost the state \$50,000,000 and cost the sheep owners \$5,000,000 more, making them a pretty expensive luxury.

We are always in want of first-class articles pertaining to Philately, Numismatics, Ornithology, Oology, Indian Relics, Autographs, or anything else that will interest our readers. Send along your articles and state cash price for the same.

This number of the *WORLD* is a few days late, owing to our taking a ten day's trip "down east." We called on Mr. W. W. Jewett, publisher of the *Philatelic Herald*, and had the pleasure of looking over Mr. F. L. Perry's fine collection of stamps.

Dr. Moss, of the English polar expedition of 1875 and 1876, says it was so cold that the flame of a wax candle could not melt all the wax, but was forced to eat its way down in the centre of the candle leaving the outside standing. A pretty cold country, that.

The August number of *Paper and Press* gives the portraits and a sketch of Frank K. Pilson, age 13, publisher of *Universal Knowledge*, and John C. Trautwine, 8rd, age 9 years, publisher of the *West Philadelphia News*. It is seldom that amateur publishers have so much notice taken of their efforts.

Four kittens born at New London, Ct., recently were bound together by a ligature at the abdomen. The cords were in the form of two triangles joined at the apex, the four ends connecting the kittens with a space of 1 1-2 inches between. As was said of the Siamese twins, they are "b-b-brothers, I p-p-presume."

The *West American Scientist* offers life subscriptions to that magazine for \$10. That is quite an idea, surely. If that paper was like the majority of Philatelic papers it would be foolish to pay \$1 for a life subscription, but the *Scientist* is a tip top good paper, on a sound financial basis and we hope to see it prosper.

The Germans claim that zinc is found in American dried apples.

Electricity has been found to travel at the rate of 288,000 miles per second.

Frederick A. Hills, of Newtonville, Mass., is about to publish the *Philatelic Advertiser and Record*.

In Meca, Kansas, a petrified log measuring ten feet long and fourteen inches thick has recently been found.

We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

We understand that the *Philatelic World* will hereafter be the official organ of the National Philatelic Society of New York.

The largest crystal of alum ever produced weighs eight tons and is on exhibition at the Edinburgh International Exhibition.

W. S. Kinzer of Wooster, Ohio, has decided not to publish the *Philatelic Journal* of Ohio. That is where he shows excellent judgment.

Mr. Warren K. Moorehead, of Xenia, Ohio, has sold his collection of Indian Relics to Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth, of Wilmington, Del.

We have a few copies of Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of this paper which we will sell for 25 cents each and any of the succeeding numbers 10 cents each.

Mr. Lyman H. Low of New York has consolidated his business with the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., and will hereafter manage their coin department.

To restore faded ink on parchment, etc., spread over the writing in a thin layer, a solution of hydrosulphide of ammonia by means of a camel hair brush.

The publisher of this paper has purchased the complete stock and also the private collection of Indian Relics owned by Mr. Charles P. Wilcomb, of this place.

W. H. La Fetra of Ridgewood, N. J., has retired from the stamp business and F. C. Sawyer, of Beauchere, Fla., has entered the ranks of stamp dealers once more.

The September number of the *Western Philatelist* contains 48 pages and cover and is full of interesting matter. The W. P. is by far the best philatelic paper published.

Mr. C. R. Gadsden has withdrawn from the *Western Philatelist* Publishing Co., leaving Messrs S. B. Bradt and P. M. Wolseifer to run the machine. Well, they can just do it.

Mr. S. B. Bradt has resigned the office of Secretary of the American Philatelic Association. Mr. Bradt has been a hard worker for the A. P. A., and it is very doubtful if another Secretary is found who will be his equal.

The Texas Philatelic Journal is a new one just out, published by Edgar T. Neville, of Paris, Texas. No. 1 contains about three inches of original reading matter, and the balance is clipped from the *WORLD*, and the Keystone State Philatelist, for some of which credit is given and for some, "nixie."

The P. J. of A. says that the *Philatelic Gazette* is "the oldest philatelic journal published." Mr. Mekeel evidently forgets "Le Timbre Poste" which was more than 20 years old when the first number of the *Gazette* was issued, and has just celebrated its 25th birthday; also the *Foreign Stamp Collectors' Journal*, etc.

The second edition of Davie's "Egg Check List and Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is a book of 184 pages with seven full page engravings and will delight the heart of every collector of Bird's Eggs. Nearly 800 species of birds are correctly named and numbered, and general descriptions of both birds and eggs are given. Price, Post free, \$1 Address this office.

We wish to inform the publishers of the Stamp that the *CURIOSITY WORLD* is not a philatelic paper, never was, never will be and never advertised as such. "By the way, Valcin," we never said we wished your breath would leave your body. We do not think you are fit to die. We simply said it would be but small loss to the philatelic public if your breath never returned to your body, and we think so now.

Mr. Charles P. Wilcomb, of this place formerly publisher of the *Museum Bulletin*, and dealer in Coins, Stuffed Birds, Eggs and Indian Relics, will start Sept., 20, on a trip to California, on his bicycle. He will go by the way of the southern states arriving in California about next January, where he will remain until next summer, when he will return by the way of the northern states. Mr. Wilcomb is agent for the "Springfield Roadster" and will ride that machine. He will sell a few bicycles and buy up what Coins and Indian Relics he can, combining business with pleasure.

The Parcel Post.

The announcement is made that the Post Office Department has established a parcel post between the United States and Mexico, and certain islands in the West Indies, by which packages weighing not more than four pounds and a fraction, by which we suppose is meant two kilogrammes, can be sent through the mails and delivered to the person addressed upon payment of the custom dues. We are glad to find that so much has been accomplished, and hope that the extraordinary facilities enjoyed by those persons who have business with Mexico will call the attention of their neighbors, whose business relations are with other countries to the inconveniences under which their transactions are carried on, as compared to the postal facilities enjoyed by the inhabitants of all other civilized countries. The absence of a parcel post service, both inland and foreign, is a disgrace to the government of the United States. The Postmaster-General seems, from his annual report, to have made a small effort to give his fellow citizens such use of the mails as is enjoyed by people abroad, but, as he naively says, the express companies opposed the idea so strongly that he was obliged to abandon it.

It is not unnatural that the express companies should oppose a plan for transporting packages by the mails at a small fraction of the rates which they demand for the same service; but there is something to be considered in the administration of a public office besides the interests of the express companies; and their opposition ought not to be regarded for a moment in comparison to the great benefits which would be conferred upon the people of the United States by such a postal service as, for instance, that of Germany. The greatest need of this country is, and will be for many years, cheap transportation. For want of this the California farmers are compelled every year to feed their pigs with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit, worthy of the Gardens of the Hesperides, while the poor working people of Chicago and New York to whom a Los Angeles plum or a Florida pineapple would be a taste of Paradise, must go without everything except the great staple articles, on account of the great cost of getting it.

In Germany, supposing it to be provided with such a varied climate as ours, the fruit grower would distribute broadcast in the cities return postal cards, containing blank orders for four, five or six pound boxes of apricots, grapes, fresh figs, or oranges, which, on receipt of the slip, with money order, would be delivered by next mail to the house of the consumer. Tons of fresh herrings, butter and other articles are distributed daily in this way all over Germany, to the advantage of the fishermen and farmers, who find a sure market for the product of their toil, as well as the citizen, who finds his taste gratified at a small cost, and of the public treasury, which can transport such articles profitably at a small fraction of the express charges.—[American Architect.

One dollar pays for a year's subscription to this paper and a 1 inch ad one issue.

For only 25 cents we will send post free to any address one copy each of the "Black List," "Stamp Dealers of the World" and "Stamps, How to Buy and Sell." Every collector should own a set of these books and now is the time to buy them.

Joseph J. Casey will open the season of 1887-88 with his 12th Auction sale of stamps at the Bucken Art Galleries, New York, Sept., 22nd. The stamps are the property of Mr. Thomas Cunningham and are all American and include some very rare specimens. Send for a copy if you have not already received one. See adv.

We have just purchased a small lot of Indian Relics which we offer for sale at the following prices: Arrow heads, fine, 10 cents each, 3 for 25 cents, 65 cents per doz; cheaper grade, 50 cents per doz; fine white quartz arrow heads from South Carolina, 15 cents each or 2 for 25c; Spear heads, 25 cents each; Celts, fine, \$1.00; cheaper grade, 50 cents; 1 fine tomahawk, \$2.00 Any of the above sent post free on receipt of price. I wish to buy Indian Relics in any quantities for spot cash: send list and state price. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

A personal inspection of the pyramids of Egypt made by a quarry owner, who spent some time recently on the Nile, has led him to the conclusion that the old Egyptians were better builders than those of the present day. He states that there are blocks of stone in the pyramids which weigh three or four times as much as the obelisks on the embankment. He saw a stone whose estimated weight was 880 tons. But then, the builders of the pyramids counted human labor lightly. They had great masses of subjects upon whom to draw, and most of their work was done by sheer manual labor and force. There are stones in the pyramids 30 feet in length which fit so closely together that a penknife may be run over the surface without discovering the break between them. They are not laid with mortar, either. There is no machinery so perfect that it will make two surfaces 30 feet in length which will meet together in unison as these stones in the pyramids meet. It is supposed they were rubbed backward and forwards upon each other until the surfaces were assimilated to each other.—[Iron.

The New United States Stamps.

CONTRIBUTED BY B. S. MONROE.

It may be of interest to philatelists, and especially to collectors of United States stamps, to learn of the changes of stamps soon to take place. I had barely been able to obtain a description of the new stamps, but through the kindness of the postmaster at Romulus, N. Y., I am enabled to look over the official circular, an exact copy of which is given below.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF 3rd ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 15, 1887.

On or about the 12th of September, 1887, the following changes in the series of ordinary postage stamps will be made:

The color of the 2-cent stamp will be green instead of the present color—metallic red.

The color of the 3-cent stamp (issues of which are still made to the larger post offices) will be vermilion instead of green.

About the same time the following changes will be made in the embossed stamps on stamped envelopes:

The 1-cent stamp will be printed from a new die of the head of Franklin after the bust by Caracci.

The two cent stamp will be green instead of metallic red, and will contain the head of Washington, from a new die, after the statue by Houdon.

The 4-cent stamp will be carmine instead of green.

The 5-cent stamp will be dark blue instead of chocolate brown and will contain the head of Grant instead of that of Garfield.

The 30-cent stamp will be brown instead of black.

The 90-cent stamp will be purple instead of carmine.

In addition to these changes, the border around the 1, 2, 4 and 5-cent embossed stamps will be somewhat different from the borders now used, the following being a description of the new design: On the upper portion of an elliptical band, between two serrated lines, are the words "United States postage," in white letters; on the lower portion of the band are the words, in the same style of lettering, indicating the denomination, which is also shown by an Arabic numeral in a shield at the bottom. The upper and lower portions of the band are separated by an eight-pointed rosette on each side of the stamp.

The stamped envelopes will be unchanged as to colors and qualities of paper, and as to denominations and prices.

Postmasters are instructed not to make requisitions for the new stamps and stamped envelopes until their present stock is about to become exhausted. They are also forbidden to make any exchanges of stamps and stamped envelopes except such as have been heretofore authorized.

H. R. HARRIS,

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Try an advertisement in our next issue. Only 50 cents per inch for 2,500 circulation.

Postage Stamp Albums.

For the beginner we know of no better stamp album than the "Ideal." It contains 72 pages, and space for 12 stamps to the page, making a total of 864 spaces for stamps. It is printed on 70 lb., tinted book paper, and is just the thing for those having a collection of less than 800 varieties, and for more advanced collectors to keep their duplicates in. Price, post free, 15 cents, or two for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

—A CARD.—

Hereafter I shall devote my whole stock of stamps to the approval sheet business, shall issue no price lists, or keep any standing offer. I shall mark my stamps at reasonable prices and from this date will allow 33 1-3 per cent, commission. Send a good reference and 2c. stamp for a sample sheet and see if I cannot suit you both in quality and price.

ROBERT W. MANIER,
Phelps Bank Bldg., Binghamton, N. Y.

5000 Reliable Agents WANTED!

To sell stamps from our fine approval sheets at 33 1-3 per cent. commission. When sales amount to \$5, we make a present of \$1 in trade off our sheets. Send for a sheet at once.

Address

Lincoln Stamp Co.,
991 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.
Please mention this paper.

Rubber Stamp Free.

A Berlin pen and pencil self-inking stamp only 40 c. Name stamps only 20c. Agents wanted. Big pay. Catalogue and terms 10c. Circulars and set of cards free. Address Isaac J. Adams, Hurlock, Md. *14

Oologists Attention!

I will dispose of a portion of my eggs in order to diminish my stock at the following rate: Coot, 6c. Crow, 4c. Wood pewee, 5c. Least Bittern, 10c. Killdeer, 15c. Black Th't B't'g, 8c. Goldfinch, 5c. Meadow Lark, 8c. Barn Swallow 4c. Cliff Swallow, 3c. In sets or single. Address at once,

LE GRAND T. MEYER,
Cedar Lake, - *14 Ind.

The Ideal Packets of Foreign Stamps.

Each packet contains 12 varieties, the catalogue price of which is 15 to 25 cents. Price, 5 cents per packet, or 6 for 25 cents.

No. 1. Austria, Barbados, Mexico, etc.
No. 2. Belgium, Bavaria, Ceylon, etc.
No. 3. Brazil, France, Finland, etc.
No. 4. Canada Bill, Sweden, Germany, etc.
No. 5. Austrian Italy, Egypt, India, etc.
No. 6. Denmark, Hungary, Natal, etc.
No. 7. West Australia, Italy, Sardinia, etc.
No. 8. Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, etc.
No. 9. Jamaica, New South Wales, Roumania, etc.
No. 10. Russia, Spain, Tasmania, etc.
No. 11. Cuba, Portugal, Servia, etc.
No. 12. Canada Reg, Turkey, Victoria, etc.
Stamps are sent post free on receipt of price.
Address, JOHN M. HUBBARD,
Lake Village, N. H.



R. R. BOGERT & CO.,
TRIBUNE BLDG., N. Y.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Revenue Stamps
ENVELOPES & POST-CARDS.

THE PHILATELIC WORLD.

Commencing January or July
25 CENTS PER YEAR.

A Complete Catalogue of

Adhesive Postage Stamps,

Free to Subscribers.

Wholesale and Retail Price Lists free.

FOREIGN STAMPS ON APPROVAL.

25 per cent. com. Written recommendations must accompany application.

PRIZES.

To the 3 approval sheet agents selling most over \$5.00 before next January,
1st. Scott's International Album.
2nd. Coats of Arms of the World.
3d. Merchant Flags of the World.
U. S. Stamps, Albums etc., sold net by competitors counted in amt for prizes.

1,000 Mixed Foreign Stamps,	25c.
100 Non Duplicate Postage, 10c.	Gum paper, 6c.
30 Heigloland, all unused,	7c.
10 Stamps, all unused, including Bulgaria, Greece (unused), &c., only	14c.
10 Stamps, finely mixed,	4c.
50 stamps, extra good	25c.
5 British Colonies, well assorted,	5c.
10 Stamps from the West Indies, all different, worth twice the amount,	25c.
10 Stamps from Central America, extra fine,	25c.
20 Stamps, all different from either of the above.	50c.
100 Finely assorted of either of the two former, 2,00	25c.
7 Alsace and Lorraine complete set, unused,	25c.
7 Hamburg Envelopes, all unused, complete set,	10c.

WM. A. TUCK,

5 Webster Street, - Nashua, N. H.

SOME BARCAINS.

100 Spain, finely assorted, many good ones, only 14c
100 Stamps, all diff. including unused Monaco, 14c
3 Heigloland, all unused, 7c
10 Stamps, all unused, including Bulgaria, Greece (unused), &c., only 14c
10 Stamps, finely mixed, 4c
50 stamps, extra good 25c
5 British Colonies, well assorted, 5c
10 Stamps from the West Indies, all different, worth twice the amount, 25c
10 Stamps from Central America, extra fine, 25c
20 Stamps, all different from either of the above. 50c
100 Finely assorted of either of the two former, 2,00 25c
7 Alsace and Lorraine complete set, unused, 25c
7 Hamburg Envelopes, all unused, complete set, 10c

All Stamps warranted genuine. Agents wanted at 25 per cent. commission, to sell from my fine Approval Sheets. Good references required. All orders under 25c. must contain 2c. stamp to pay return postage.

P. S. JOHNSON,

26 Winter St. *14 Salem, Mass.

Auction Sales of Stamps.

The advertiser will inaugurate the season of '87-'88 on September 22nd, with his 12th sale of purely American Stamps. Early in October following, his 13th sale will take place, when many gems of foreign and American stamps of all kinds will be sold absolutely. In this sale will be found some United States Envelopes heretofore supposed to be unique. Catalogues forwarded on application and bids executed without cost.

The advertiser is pleased to announce to collectors desiring to dispose of all or part of their collections or to dealers wishing to dispose of portions of their stock, that his auction sales at Bucken's Art Galleries are the most feasible plan for realizing good prices for philatelic property. Being one of the oldest collectors in the United States, he has unusual facilities for the proper preparation of catalogues; and not being a dealer, his patrons will have the utmost assurance that their interests will be faithfully protected. His charges are 20 per cent., no extras, and a guaranteed circulation of at least 500 catalogues of each sale.

Information furnished with pleasure. Address,

Joseph J. Casey,

42 East 112th Street. New York City.

A NEW IDEA

In gummed paper hinges. Samples and prices forwarded only to dealers on application.

For 25 Cents

I will mail you 1000 postage stamps containing about 100 kinds, including a Japan postal card, Porto Rico and Monaco unused, Mexico, Dutch E. Indies, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Portugal, Japan, Guatemala, Greece and many others. Only 25c.

8 Mexico, 10c. 4 Am. Rapid unused 15c.
10 Swiss "Ausser Kurs" complete 20c. 7 Alsace and Lorraine unused 30c. 12 Austria obsolete, 10c.

Do not send stamps, send silver or postal note.

CHAS. A. TOWNSEND,

AKRON, - - - OHIO.

Notes on Some Kentucky Birds.

V.

BY L. O. PINDAR.

BLUEBIRD.—*Sialia sialis*. The "blessed bluebird bearing the sky upon his back," is a common resident here and cannot be considered as a "harbinger of spring," as it is plentiful in the coldest weather. But whether in the middle of August or the depth of winter it is the same cheerful, happy bird, sitting most of the time on a fence, sometimes on the low limb of a tree.

The food consists of insects in summer, sometimes a little grain in the fall, in the winter, berries, chiefly of the black gum and hackberry tree. The nest is in a hole of a stump or tree, in a fence post, almost anywhere in fact. The eggs are from four to five in number, generally sky-blue, sometimes very pale blue or even pure white. I got a set of five pure white eggs this spring. The bird laid again in the same hole and these eggs were also white. I did not take these and I believe the brood was safely reared. The bluebird must raise several broods in a season. I found a nest containing four young Apr. 25, 1887 and have obtained fresh eggs in the middle of May. The bluebird will always be a favorite of mine from the fact that the first eggs I ever collected were a set of five bluebird's eggs.

CATBIRD.—*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. A summer visitant here and very common. Arrived especially early this year, two being seen Feb. 22nd. It is a beautiful singer rivaling the thrasher and at times almost equalling even the mocking-bird. It is a pity, as one writer has observed, that such fine singers should condescend to such squalls as they often set up. I have seen a catbird following a cat the whole length of a fence, jumping from picket to picket as the cat ran along the ground. At every jump it gave a perfectly natural imitation of a cat's mew.

A writer in one of our papers, I think it was John Burroughs, but am not sure, says that the bird reminds him of the animal not only by the voice but in the feline switch of the tail. He also, with other writers accuses the catbird of sucking other bird's eggs. I can offer nothing on this point myself from personal observation. The nest is made of leaves, small twigs, dried grass, inner bark of grape vines and sometimes a piece of paper. It is generally built in a small tree, sometimes a vine and seldom at a great height and very rarely at any great distance from some house.

The eggs are bluish-green, unspotted, usually four in number, but sometimes five. I have never seen six. I once found a nest with three eggs all highly incubated, showing that the clutch was complete.

CHIMNEY SWIFT.—*Chatura pelagica*. It hardly seems possible that this sombre-colored, sooty bird that builds a nest of mere sticks in a smoky, dirty chimney should be the nearest relation to that glittering, sparkling gem the hummingbird, which we generally imagine as living on the sweets of flowers and the morning dew and which builds a most beautiful, exquisite nest on some grand monarch of the forest, yet such indeed is the case. Well may the poet exclaim, "Things are not what they seem."

The swift is an abundant summer resident here, arriving here early in April and leaving the middle of October. Although a skilled flyer it sometimes meets with an accident as I know of two cases in which the bird has impaled itself on a lightning rod in attempting to dart down the chimney.

I do not think the swift is a very early riser. I passed by an empty house the other day about 8 o'clock in the morning and saw 128 by actual count leave the chimney. Did you ever watch them enter the chimney in the evening? Go to a house in whose chimney a great many stay, just before dusk of a summer evening. You will probably see about fifty circling around. A slight wind blows over and in a moment every bird has dropped down the chimney. In a few minutes more come, whence I know not. You see a speck against the sky. Look again. It is hovering over the house, a bird. These same maneuvers will be repeated until all the birds have entered the chimneys.

The nest is merely a basket-like structure of sticks glued together and to the chimney by a saliva secreted by the bird. The eggs are four in number, very elongated and pure white in color.

Coin Collecting.

BY E. G. WARD.

Coin collecting is one of the most interesting amusements of the various hobbies that are in vogue at the present time. It covers a large field of study in which a persistent student can labor for years without exhausting. When we try to

think of the different countries on the globe that have a circulating medium in the shape of gold, silver, nickel and copper coins which are used to facilitate business transactions, it is simply appalling to think of getting together such a collection of coins. We never heard of a complete collection of coins or of one that was anywhere near complete. Among the different classes of collectors are some who collect all kinds of coins; others make a specialty of gold coins, while another class only collect silver, and many from a lack of the "needful" and others from choice, collect only copper; others collect the coins of one country; for instance, the average Englishman cares but little for any coins but those of Great Britain, while Americans usually prefer United States or Colonial coins. There are three ways of collecting, viz: 1. By purchase. 2. By exchange. 3. By hunting for them among our friends and neighbors. It is well to combine the three methods in a measure, but by far the most fascinating way is to hunt for them. You may be years in finding a certain date but there is a pleasing satisfaction in knowing that we found a certain rare piece ourselves and we prize such a coin more highly than if we had purchased it of some dealer. Especially will we find it so in collecting United States cents and half cents. Those who have plenty of money to spare can secure a complete set in a short time, by purchase, but the poorer class of collectors cannot afford to pay the fancy prices at which some of the United States cents are offered at the present time. If you buy the cheaper coins, graded "poor" and "fair," there is danger of not getting the genuine dates. Although there is a law against making, altering or defacing coins by private parties, still there are a good many frauds which are calculated to deceive the unwary. We have seen some skillfully executed counterfeits and altered dates of the 1793, 1799 and 1804 cents. We well remember a counterfeit 1804 cent sent us several years ago. It was a miserable fraud and it went back to the sender about as quick as it came. As we said before, any person who can afford to pay fancy prices can get the genuine thing of our reliable dealers. There is a pleasure in looking over a lot of coins that some old person has kept stowed away among their treasures since they were children. We remember a very fine half dime of 1802 that we found that way, and procured it for a trifle over face value. A few weeks ago we were given a very fine 1811 over 1810 cent that we found in the possession of a friend who placed no value upon it. All that is needed is patience and perseverance and in time one can get together quite a respectable collection. Any one interested in war tokens and store cards can in a short time get a very interesting collection together, which will show the spirit of patriotism during the Rebellion, in such pieces as the Gen. Dix token and many others. In the store cards one can see to what straits the people were driven to secure the use of small change which the vicissitudes of war had driven out of circulation. Anyone making a collection of Canadian coins will be surprised to find such a large number of penny and half penny tokens. The more a person studies the coins of a country and the historical events that have happened which have caused certain coins to be struck the more deeply interested he becomes and he will be more eager to secure a set of a certain line of coins of that country.

Too many of our young people will collect coins a little while, then sell out at a sacrifice; then they will start out on stamps, with the same results, then change to something else, making a miserable failure of everything they try. We need a little more stick-to-it-iveness in our young people, both in collecting coins, and in all the business affairs of life. "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

The fifteen great American Inventions of world-wide adoption are: 1, the cotton gin; 2, the planting machine; 3, the grass mower and reaper; 4, the rotary printing press; 5, navigation by steam; 6, the hot air engine; 7, the sewing machine; 8, the india rubber industry; 9, the machine manufacture of horseshoes; 10, the sand blast for carving; 11, the gauge lathe; 12, the grain elevator; 13, artificial ice made on a large scale; 14, the electric magnet and its practical application; 15, the telephone.

Confederate Money.

Since the downfall of the Southern Confederacy Confederate money has been growing more valuable each year, and any one desiring a few specimens should procure them at once. We have a small stock of Confederate bills, which we are selling at 10 cents each, or three varieties for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

The Stamps of Spain.

BY J. WHITTEMORE HALSEY.

Probably the most interesting if not the most attractive series of postage stamps are those from the kingdom of Spain. This country covers an area of nearly 196,000 square miles, of which four fifths is classed as productive, although only about one third of the area is under cultivation. Large quantities of oranges, raisins and other fruit are exported to various places throughout the civilized world. The wine product averages nearly half a million gallons per annum. The mineral products are of vast importance, the Cordova lead mines being the richest in the world. Cordova is surrounded by a high wall with round and eight-sided towers, built by the Moors. Its great cathedral, one of the finest in the world, was built A. D. 783 by them for a mosque. The roof is supported by many arches and was once held up by 1200 columns, but 400 of them have been removed to make room for the Christmas services. The Moors lighted this magnificent structure with 4,000 silver lamps, the effect of which must have been very beautiful. The mercury mines of Almaden rank next to those of California. The principal mine is about a quarter of a mile deep and runs under the town; they are worked day and night in winter but are closed in summer when the great heat makes the fumes rising from the quicksilver too poisonous to breathe.

The Spaniards as a nation are lazy and indolent, though the higher classes are generally cultivated and refined. There are ten universities with 16,000 students. Spain was settled by the Phoenicians and Greeks, who built many fine cities there. The Greeks named it Iberia, after the river Iberus or Ilbro. The Carthaginians, who now settled it, were driven out in 206 B. C., by the Romans who in time conquered the entire country. They named it Hispania and from thence comes the modern word Spain. The Visigoths, a German tribe, took it from the Romans about A. D. 471 and in the eighth century the whole country was captured by the Arabs, or Moors, who ruled a large part of the country until 1492, when they were driven out by Ferdinand and Isabella with whose reign all are acquainted. They took Grenada, the Moorish capital and united the kingdom of Castile.

There are over 3,000 post offices in Spain, but the majority of them are minor affairs, receiving and sending out but very small mail. Spain is the only European country that permits slavery in its colonies, and thousands of these unhappy wretches are at work on the immense sugar plantations in the Spanish West Indies. The colonial possessions of Spain have an area of 163,876 square miles and have a population of about 8,000,000. The most important colonies are Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

(To be continued.)

Subscribe for the WORLD.

NEW ISSUES.

FROM THE WESTERN PHILATELIST.

ANTIGUA.—The new 2-1/2d. is now blue and the 4d. red brown.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The 1c. of 1873 is reported rouletted.
BAVARIA.—Both the 3pf. and 5pf. cards come with date "87" at the left.
BR. BECHUANALAND.—"The Ph. R." reports 1-2d. and 1d. wrappers and the 1d. card with surcharge on two lines 7 and 12 mm. long.
CASHMERE.—The 1-2a. of current type is printed in blue.
CEYLON.—The surcharge "15 cents" on the 12c. envelope is now printed in two lines.
COCHIN CHINA.—The 30c. unpaid is said to be surcharged for use as 20c. and 1f.
DANISH WEST INDIES.—The 3c. card is now on buff, and there is a 2x2c. blue on white.
FRENCH GUIANA.—In addition to the surcharges issued in December, "E.U. de T." mentions three others with date "April 1887," viz. 0.05 on 2c. 1887; 0.20 on 35c. 1881, and 0.25 on 30c. Liberty.
GRENADA.—It is stated that the 1d. 6d. and 2sh. revenues have been surcharged "Postage—1d."
HOLLAND.—The 5c. and 10c. unpaid letter stamps of the new design, are out.
LABUAN.—The 4c. card now measures 121x89mm.
PARAGUAY.—"The Ph. R." has a series of stamps of similar design as the 5c. lately reported; i.e. green, 2c. carmine, 7c. chocolate, 10c. purple, 15c. orange and 20c. pink.
PORTO RICO.—Of the 3c. card on brown we have 3 minor varieties in the getting up of the inscriptions.
PORTUGAL.—A new 20 reis rose, was issued July 1st; effigy 3-4 to right without relief, also a card with same stamp. The 500 reis is now lilac instead of black.
ROUMANIA.—The color of the unpaid letter stamps is to be changed, according to the "A. B. A."
ST. CHRISTOPHER.—New cards with head in circle have been issued; 1d. carmine on buff and 1-1/2d. brown on buff.
SWITZERLAND.—It is said stamps are to issued without embossing.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are inserted for 5 cents per month. Over 24 words and not exceeding 48, 10 cents per month. This column is open to the public at these rates, whether they are subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a brand new Gem stamp album containing space for 600 stamps. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Exchange desired with stamp collectors in all parts of the world. Philatelic papers wanted, complete volumes especially desired. Address N. E. Carter, Delavan, Wis. * 15

12 fine white cards, no chromo, with name thereon for every 75 stamps sent me. O. H. Givier, Naperville, Ill. * 14

Scientific books and papers to exchange. Send stamp for lists. Box 108, West Medford, Mass. * 13

Vol. 7 Golden Days, complete and the first 14 numbers of vol. 8, for the best offer of foreign and domestic stamps. Bert B. Barr, 1,560 Park Ave., New York.

A large number of United States cents and some other coins for coins or paper money not in my collection. C. T. Tatman, 93 Piedmont St., Worcester, Mass. * 17

I wish to exchange for collections of eggs, stamps and Indian Relics; state what is wanted; enclose stamp for list. Wm. L. Puffer Brockton, Mass. * 15

90 different foreign stamps for every 1833 V nickel without cents. H. H. Greene, Vineland, N. J.

What have you to exchange for 800 square-cut 1 and 2 cent envelope stamps. Edith Mouton, 369 E. Indiana St., Chicago, Ill.

Arrow points, fossil ferns, curiosity papers, mounted birds; match, medicine and document stamps wanted; send lists. O. D. Walbridge, Marsfield, Ill. * 17

I will give a receipt for making rubber stamps and invisible ink for a dime prior to 1850 and stamp for return postage. F. E. Bigelow, Northboro, Mass. * 17

150 fine foreign stamps for 500 common U. S. (not more than 100 of a kind.) All kinds of U. S. stamps wanted. Wm. D. Acker, 144 Montgomery St., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

I would like to exchange fresh water shells for sea shells, also first class bird's eggs with data. J. D. Snyder, box 32, Lowell, Ohio.

Two good books for a stamp album containing 600 varieties of stamps. Herbert Kelley, Ceres, Cal.

Fifty foreign stamps for every first class philatelic paper sent me. O. H. Phinney, Mt. Pleasant, Ill.

My collection of 50 different foreign coins for old United States half cents and eagle cents. Phil S. Bonney, Little Sioux, Iowa.

Will exchange for good second hand type and cuts. Johnson & Paschal, Lenox, Iowa.

A good watch, philatelic papers, 200 varieties and 2,000 mixed 1840-1860 United States stamps, all worth \$2.25 for a printing press. A rubber stamp for curiosities, stamps or anything in the collecting line. H. A. Meek, Bedford, Iowa.

Coral, shell, vegetable fossils given collectors paying postage or express and for packing, not exceeding three pounds; hundreds large, small and good Mrs. W. C. Pratt, Norvell, Jackson Co., Mich. * 15

Twenty-five different philatelic papers I will give 9 varieties of stamps including Due, Interior and Confederate; ten different for every paper sent me, not less than 5 taken; Confederate bills for papers; can take all you send. J. Burke, 24 Union Court, Lynn, Mass.

A V nickel without cents for any of the following; 6 Canadian stamps, 17 varieties Department stamps, 30 Canadian envelope or 600 United States stamps, 400 3c green or 100 4, 5, 6 and 10 cent, current issue, U. S. stamps. Percival Parrish, 53 Washington St., Newport, R. I.

Foreign postal cards for same. Ready Binder to bind one year of this paper, for every V nickel without cents and stamp. Also will exchange binder for foreign postal cards. G. N. Fellows, Franklin, N. H.

An Aerolite.

BANGOR, Me., Sept. 16, 1887. People in this section who were out of doors last night were surprised to see the heavens brilliantly illuminated. This forenoon, after the arrival of the trains from the east, reports were circulated that an immense meteor, larger than a box car, had fallen on the land of the New Brunswick railroad, near McAdam Junction, 6 miles from Vanceboro, the terminus of the Maine Central. Conductor Robert Elms who was at Vanceboro last night, reports that the stone is buried in the ground quite deep and projects 10 1-2 feet into the air. It is of the color of burnt rock and when it fell was very hot. So intense was the heat that people who approached to within 50 feet were driven away. Engineer Penney of No. 11 train was going east and at about 8 o'clock, the time of the fall was at Veasie. He says the sky was of a bluish tint, lasting several seconds. Trainmen from St. Johns, Calais and points along the New Brunswick railway also saw the illuminator. At McAdam, which is only a railway junction, is located a depot in which is a dining room. When the stone struck the thud was plainly felt, the dishes being shaken from the shelves. From the description it would seem that the stone was pointed at the end projecting from the ground and large at the buried part. As the heat prevents a close examination, parties have to be content with a distant view. No damage was done. The extraordinary weight of this meteor makes the event one of great interest.—[Boston Herald.]

Hints on Insect Collecting.

There is no branch of Natural History work that offers more attractions to the student than insect collecting. This book contains much valuable information as to the outfit necessary for collecting, the manner of preparing and mounting insects, the preparation of a cabinet, etc., and every collector should possess a copy. The book is recommended by the Agassiz Association and is mentioned in their hand book. Price, 11 cents each, 3 for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

The Gem Stamp Album.

The majority of stamp collectors, especially beginners, prefer to invest what money they can in stamps, rather than in an album. We have just issued a new album, called the "Gem," which for neatness and cheapness is not beat in this country. It is printed on 50 lb., tinted, machine finished paper, and contains space for 600 stamps. Size, 6x8 inches. Price, post free 11 cents, or three copies for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.



THE WESTERN PHILATELIST

A first-class Journal for Stamp Collectors. Issued regularly on the first of every month. Sample copy free. Address Western Philatelic Pub. Co., Box 206, Chicago.

The Collectors' Review

Is an interesting paper devoted to Philately. 8 pages and cover. 25 cents per year. Sample copy free. Send for a copy to

BABB & CARSTARPHEN,

Box 3081, Denver, Colo.

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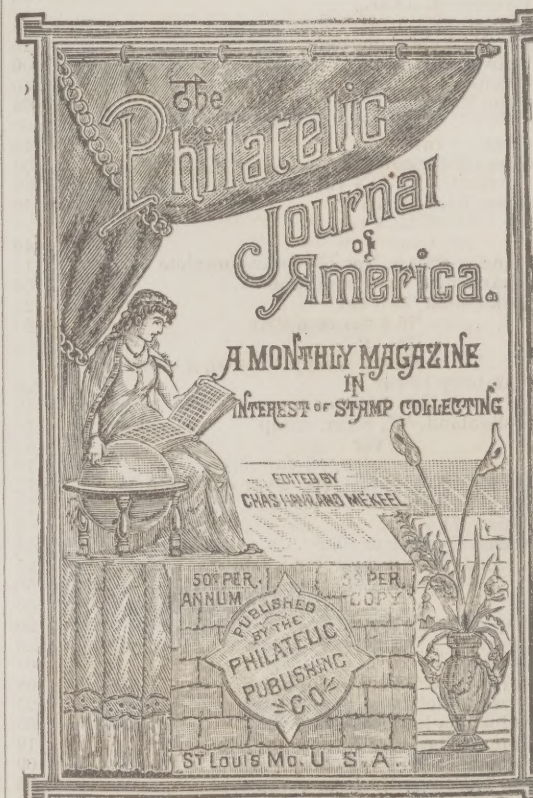
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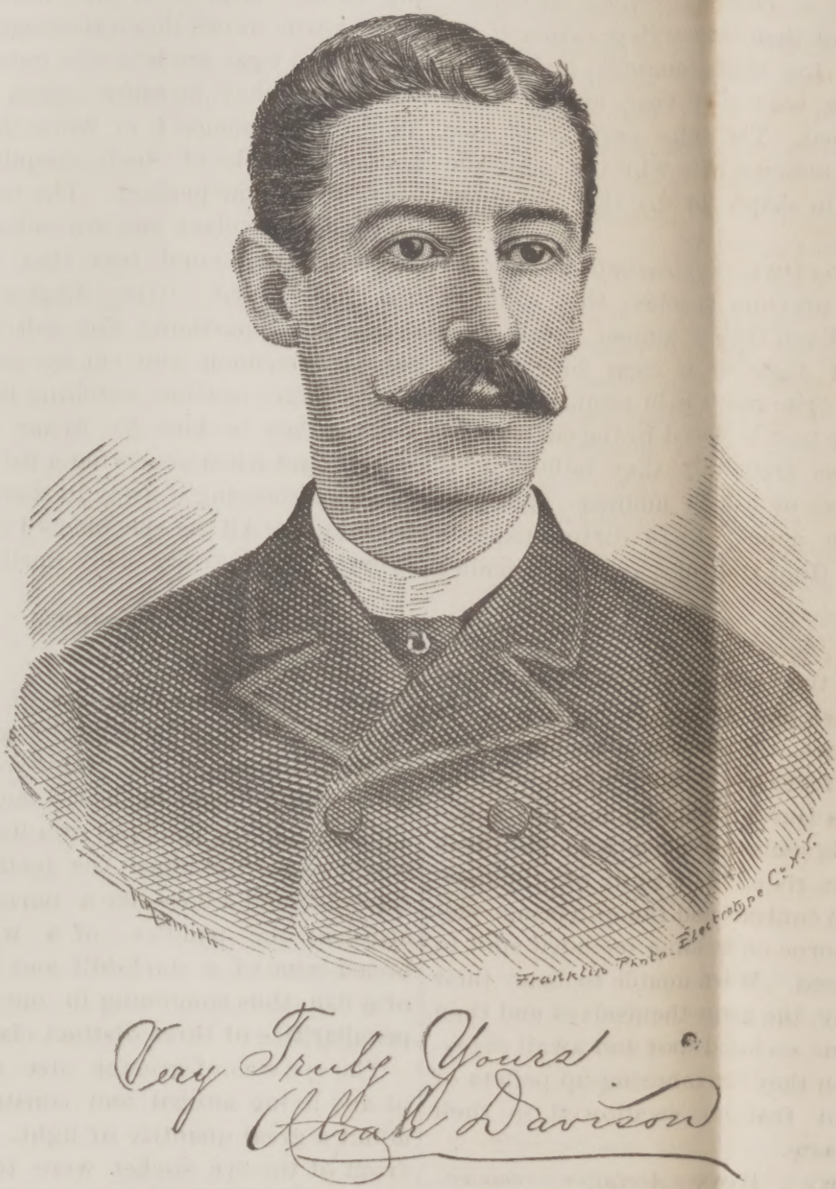
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Alvah Davison.

Mr. Alvah Davison, the editor of the Youth's Ledger, whose portrait appears above, was born in New York City, Mar. 6th, 1863. He graduated from the public schools and in 1877 entered the establishment of A. T. Stewart & Co., Broadway and Chambers Sts., New York. While here he became interested in stamp collecting and commenced his first collection. Several years later after having got a fine collection together he sold it to Wm. P. Brown, then doing business in the World Building. After having been at Stewart's for 5 years, he resigned to accept a more lucrative position as clerk in a large manufacturing establishment. In 1885 he moved to Helmetta, N. J., where he has since resided and again became interested in Philately.

In Dec. 1884, he started the Youth's Ledger, a monthly paper devoted to collectors of all branches. The name and form of the paper were against its success as all papers of its class were published in magazine form and were devoted to only one branch of collecting. But with all the odds against him, Mr. Davison persevered and got up a very good paper, but he informs us that the paper was not on a paying basis until No. 8 was out. But few publishers would have played a losing game as long as that, but he has been amply rewarded for his time and trouble. In 1886 he started in the stamp business, dealing almost exclusively in approval sheets and during the past year has had more than three hundred agents working for him.

The prejudices against the newspaper form and "mixed" contents of the paper gradually wore away; it has never "doubled up," and is always out promptly the first of every month. Several months ago, finding he had altogether too much on his hands, Mr. Davison sold a half interest in the paper to Mr. Gustav Aue, of New York, who attends to all the business of the paper, leaving only the editorial work to Mr. Davison. It is said that two heads are better than one, and it surely is so in this case, as Mr. Aue has proved to be a good helper. The June number commenced an interesting series of sketches and portraits of prominent philatelists and special features are added every month.

Mr. Davison is married, and the junior editor's chair is occupied by a bright little curly-headed boy, who is, we presume, "His mother's comfort and his father's joy." Mr. Davison has a fine collection of U. S. adhesive stamps which he informs us will soon be complete. He is No. 4 in the American Philatelic Association and is a hard worker for the Association. He has lately decided to give every member of the Association the Youth's Ledger free, which shows that he has the best interests of the A. P. A. at heart.

He made us a short call when on his vacation trip last August; he is very quiet and reserved and is a man who will make friends with anyone. Last year he was appointed Notary Public for the state of New Jersey, by Gov. Abbett. Helmetta

is on the Camden & Amboy branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, about fifty miles from New York and anyone who will take the trouble to call on Mr. Davison will receive a hearty welcome and have the pleasure of seeing a fine collection of stamps.

Writings of the Aborigines.

The Author of the Cherokee Alphabet.

BY H. V. WASHINGTON.

On the discovery of this continent it is estimated that scattered from Behring Strait to Patagonia North and South America were inhabited by 15,000,000 natives. The primitive history of this vast number of people has so far perished as to render their origin a matter of conjecture. There has been not less than twenty named theories advanced on this subject, yet it remains as much an enigma to the student of history as is the authorship of the Letters of Junius to the *Literati*. This obscurity is attributable to the absence of literature and written language among the natives, with the partial and notable exception of the Aztecs. At the time of Cortes' invasion, the Mexicans possessed, in their peculiar picture-writings, a continuous history of themselves going back to the year 472. They did not use an alphabet, but to record their ideas and events had recourse to symbolic pictures. This art of writing was taught in their schools and in it they became very skillful. By this means their laws, history, poetry, hymns and literature generally were written and preserved. It seems to have been one of the chief pleasures of the Spaniards to destroy these curious and valuable records whenever found. Their historical picture-writing probably bore some resemblance to the continuous pictures encircling the interior of the dome of the capitol at Washington, where the artist with marvelous skill is depicting the successive stages of our history.

Of the tribes originally inhabiting the United States most of them employed a few signs but none of them possessed an adequate written language. The little of their history known to them lay in vague and unreliable traditions.

Probably the main cause of the decrease of the aborigines to their present insignificant number is due to their stubborn resistance to civilization—seeming to prefer extinction to an acceptance of the customs of their white neighbors. The intelligence and adaptability of the various tribes differ greatly. None have exhibited more capacity for improvement than the Cherokees who formerly inhabited North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama and are now the most civilized and prosperous of the tribes in the Indian Territory. Before the tribe had been wholly removed from Georgia, an Indian by the name of Sequoyah or George Guess then living in Chatoga county Ga., invented a written alphabet deserving mention. In his contact with the whites he had observed that they could "talk at a distance," and although himself illiterate, he determined to give his people the same advantage;

and the ingenious savage after a persevering labor of two years, having ascertained the certain number of those radical particles of his native tongue, invented for each a representative character and thus formed a complete and perhaps only syllabic alphabet in the world.

The accomplishment of this among a people so little addicted to inventive study proves the author of it to have been a person of no ordinary mind. In a few months it spread all over the nation and without schools or expense the Cherokees were enabled to do what no other Indian tribe had ever been able to do, viz. to read and write in their own musical tongue.

Delaware.

BY JOSEPH WIGGLESWORTH.

Although small in size, Delaware affords a wide and interesting scope for archaeological research. From the number of well-known localities and the number of relics found, it was undoubtedly at one time densely populated by the Indians. Near Claymont, in the northern part of the state, is a small clearing known by the local name of Indian Field. At this place a great many small specimens are found such as beads, arrow-heads, fragments of pottery and also an occasional axe. The next locality going south, and perhaps the best known in this vicinity, is Edgemoor. Although many fine specimens have been taken here, I have generally given it a wide berth because of its prominence; being content with collecting on Indian sites that have been less searched. Brier Hill on Christina creek and Polecat Hill on White Clay creek, are two good localities, being distant respectively, two and a half and seven miles from the city of Wilmington. At both of these places a very large amount of fragmentary pottery is found. Next in order we have the "Island," a slight elevation surrounded by low marshes and about midway between Wilmington and Newcastle. A man digging a spring ditch across this place a few years ago, found about a bushel of spear heads, some of which are in my collection. They are rather large in size but very poor in workmanship. A number of axes from this locality grace the collections of a few local archaeologists. Celts have also been found but are very rare. In the southern part of the state are the remains of the "Mound Builders" of Delaware. From the town of Lewes to the southern state line there is a succession of large and small mounds composed entirely of oyster shells. In the summer months these mounds are covered with visitors industriously scratching for relics. All they find is a few arrow and spear heads which they only obtain after constant and laborious work. The above are only a few of the best known localities in Delaware. Nearly all the small creeks in the state were inhabited by the aborigines and here the archaeologist will, with a little patience, be rewarded with finding some very interesting specimens.

Concretions.

BY W. S. BEEKMAN.

Among the many forms of concretionary structures which include thousands of different forms in as many different aspects, are the limonite concretions of New Jersey.

These concretions, coming from one to three or six inches in length, do not possess a very striking aspect and if one decides at a glance whether or no, it is worthy of their collection, the decision is generally against them. However, a closer acquaintance with these somewhat rusty-looking formations generally excites the admiration of all.

In this paper I will not attempt to give the few curious suggestions put forth by several in regard to their formation, but will endeavor to give a plain description of them.

Having quite a number in a box, a visitor made a remark on seeing the lot, that accurately describes their external appearance, and I can give no plainer. We had just finished examining a set of fossils, when, on catching sight of these concretions he exclaimed, "Gracious! How large russet pears grew in those times." They are exactly pear-shaped. I have handled several hundred of these freaks of "Nature's Laboratory" and almost without exception they come pear-shaped.

The majority presented a granular reddish-brown exterior, while some were of a compact grey material. This reddish-

brown granulation was part of the original bed in which they formed. Just inside of this granulation, about an eighth of an inch, is a layer of greyish-black limonite, not so highly hydrated as in the first instance, and consequently is of a more metallic nature.

Under conditions favorable, the granular covering is washed away and it is then that the compact grey appearance is obtained. This covering is exceedingly hard, and only a quarter of an inch thick. One is quite surprised by the breaking of this shell to find the interior is filled with a pure sand, resembling beach-sand.

At first it was considered to be beach-sand, however, I find under microscope it is not beach remains and is a disintegration in angular grains, which are very pretty when viewed with polarized light. A very economic way of illustrating these curious concretions, if indeed, they are concretions, is to bore a hole in the covering into which fit a stopper. The sand may be taken out and then put back.

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OCTOBER 1, 1887.

Ex-Editor Fraser is still on deck and doing lots of business. He occupies more than half a page in the September issue of the Philatelic Gazette, explaining his cheap talk in regard to the late Mr. Durbin and the little item in his paper that in his opinion "an unused set of jubilee stamps went a great way toward convincing one that James Chalmers was the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp" or words to that effect, and firing off a lot of chin music at the publisher of this paper. Mr. Fraser claims that he published his attack on Mr. Durbin, with Mr. Durbin's full consent, and is very much offended because we refused to publish a somewhat lengthy epistle in defence of his recent articles. Our advice to Mr. Fraser was to drop the matter at once, but he does not seem to know when he has got enough. Mr. Fraser, do you ever "meddle" with other people's business? Was it any of your business what Mr. Durbin said about Mr. Chalmers? Certainly not, but the coat must have fitted you pretty well or you wouldn't have put it on so quick. You needn't get mad, though, when someone else takes the same privilege you do, and uses a little plain english about you as you have about Secretary Bradt and Mr. Durbin, and as we presume you do about every person whom you happen to get a grudge against. The WORLD was the first paper to advocate the suspension of the American Philatelist and of course you do not love us, and now is just the time for you to "get even with us." We think, however, that we can get a mouthful while you are getting a meal. We have never misrepresented you—the facts are bad enough—and you know it. Patrick Chalmers would do well to put a muzzle on your mouth and pen, as you have done his cause more harm than a hundred sets of unused Jubilee stamps would do good. As you evidently read nothing but Mr. Chalmers' pamphlets and the WORLD, we clip the following from the Collectors Journal.

"Now that the American Philatelist has been abolished by ballot, Mr. Fraser, the ex-official editor very naturally feels sore over the loss of his salary of ten dollars a month. In a letter to the editor of the S. C. Figaro, published in the June issue of the journal he gives expression to his ideas with a vigor which would be commendable had he confined himself to facts. But his idea of truth is, unfortunately for himself, a trifle limited in its scope. Messrs Bradt, Kline and others are alluded to as liars, and he winds up with a general denunciation of the whole Association from A to Z—because it had sense enough to bounce an incompetent editor from his easy chair.

There is no reason why the American Philatelist should not have been a success. Although the funds at the disposal of the Association were necessarily limited, still a very creditable paper might have been arranged in eight-page form had Fraser known his business better. The true stumbling block was selfishness he blames everyone but himself. If Fraser, instead of making a fool of himself editorially, had acted the part of a gentleman, the whole affair might have been amicably settled ere now."

It will be seen by the above that there are others who do not appreciate Mr. Fraser any more than we do. If he has done what he sincerely thought was right, he should be pitied rather than blamed.

The publishers of the Philatelic Gazette have sent in their annual dues to the Sec. of the A. P. A. Good! All hands would have felt very badly if they had not, and the Association would have been in danger of going through bankruptcy, but now everything will go along nicely.

We are glad that Messrs Tiffany and Bradt have buried the hatchet and are friends, once more, but we are decidedly sorry that Mr. Bradt has resigned his position as Secretary. He has been a hard worker and deserves the thanks of every member of the Association.

The Western Philatelist Publishing Co. have published the address of President Tiffany before the Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association, in book form. No philatelic library is complete without it. Price, 10 cents.

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We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cut envelope stamps. See adv.

The Philatelic Gazette does not wish to argue with us any more. All right, gentlemen: if you have got enough, that settles it. Mr. Fraser isn't so easily satisfied as you are.

Mr. Robert C. H. Brock, of Philadelphia, Pa., has been appointed editor of the American Philatelist. We sincerely hope the paper will be a grand improvement over the thing edited by Mr. Fraser.

Joseph J. Casey will hold his 13th sale of U. S. and Foreign Stamps at Bucken's Art Galleries, New York, Thursday, Oct., 13th. The collection is the property of Mr. George B. Mason, and contains many rare specimens, including a fine lot of Buenos Ayres, Mulready Envelopes, etc. The catalogue contains 654 lots. All stamp collectors who have not received a copy should send for one. Address Mr. Casey at 42 East 112th St., New York.

Indiana's Resident Raptors.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

This order of birds comprising the genus Hawks and Owls is characterized by their carnivorous habits; the canine teeth and claws of the carnivora being represented by the powerful talons and beak of the birds of this order. They are often unwisely persecuted for their carnivorous habits, but it is their nature; their philosophical structure compels them to obtain meat for their food. The cause for this is very obvious; they have no gizzard which the others have and consequently are unable to digest such material as cereals. They do not greet the ear with melodious songs such as the Mockingbird or Thrush, or present the eye with a beautiful diversity of colors, as the Blue Jay does, for either would betray their presence and checkmate their aim—obtaining their prey; but they faithfully perform their mission as scavengers of the common offal. The plumage of the sexes is usually different, the male wearing the brighter coat, but he is inferior to the female in size.

THE OWLS.

This sub-family comprising about two hundred species, has at least two species in every part of the Globe, unless Australia be an exception. The sexes are not distinguishable in their coloration; the young early assume the color of their parents, and many are dimorphous, that is, double colored: several birds of the same species with the same parents and in the same brood will have different markings and retain them through life. The owl is the only bird that can see an object with both eyes at the same time. Their food consists principally of mice, which, owing to the downy texture and fineness of their feathers, they are enabled to fly upon the poor mice, before they know they are in the neighborhood. They scarcely deserve to be persecuted as they are. Another prominent feature is their large, "cat-like" eyes and owing to the coloration of the iris and pupil, many of them are unable to see in daylight. I will only give a description of the bona fide residents.

LITTLE SCREECH OWL.—*Scops asio*. A common resident, in fact it is our commonest. There are two forms of coloration in this species, namely, red and gray. Mr. Maynard says, "out of forty specimens examined, only 5 were gray;" I rather think, though, if he were to examine forty from this locality he would find only five red. Among the ignorant and superstitious their appearance near a dwelling and hearing their dismal "who who" at night is sure to forebode death in that family. The bird sees very well during the daytime and is easily domesticated, making a very nice pet. Breeds commonly, placing their nests in holes and cavities wherever convenient, often using dwellings. The nest is constructed of hay and sticks and lined with feathers and in this is laid the complement varying from four to nine in number. The eggs are pure white in color and measure 1.25x1.40, nearly round.

Well do I remember the first supposed eggs I received of the "Red Owl" and what treasures I thought them. But alas, my dream was soon ended, for one of the neighbor's boys, trusting to my credulity had palmed off two "rooster's eggs" for them. I never forgave him and always felt like doing something else.

GREAT HORNED OWL.—*Bubo virginianus*. This large variety is often called Cat Owl, on account of the 2 large tufts of feathers, erectile at will, it has over each eye, giving it the aspect of that animal. Frequents the deep woods although seeing well during daytime. Their depredations on the hen houses is well known, but with all their wisdom they are

unable to keep off from poles on which traps are set for them. Breeds, nesting early in March; in fact, I have a record of a set being found in January when there was twelve inches of snow on the ground, but any time from March to the middle of April you are liable to find fresh eggs. The nest is usually placed in the crotch of a tree, but more frequently they patch up a deserted crow's or hawk's nest to suit their taste. They evince great partiality for their democile, using the same nest year after year, even if it has been robbed. The eggs vary from two to five in number, pure white in color and spherical in shape. In size they are about 2.20x1.90.

BARRED OWL.—*Strix nebulosa*. Unlike the two previous species, this sombre-looking Wood Owl is almost totally deprived of sight on a clear bright day. Their favorite resort is in swampy timber where the nest is placed in the cavities of trees; less frequently they build a nest. Eggs, three or five in number, spherical measuring about 2x1.70 distinguishable from the Hoot Owl only by their smaller size.

THE HAWKS.

Unlike the Owls, this sub-family makes a bold dash and carries off their prey in their claws. Whenever a bird raises its legs, the feet close by involuntary muscles so when a Hawk alights upon a victim the sharp long nails sink deep into the flesh and when rising again to fly off, the muscles again contract and the quivering victim is borne off to some secluded spot to be devoured. When unable to bear their prey away, the gorge themselves and then go to some secluded spot and await digestion; soon they are vomiting up pellets of bone and feathers, swallowed in their greedy haste.

COOPER'S HAWK.—*Accipiter cooperi*. Common resident throughout the State. This is perhaps the boldest depredator of the family; they do not hesitate to attack chickens in the presence of their owners. Breeds, nesting in April, placing their large bushy nest in the thick forests, generally in the topmost crotch of a very tall tree. The nest is composed of sticks, large ones on the outside and smaller ones in the centre, sparingly lined with bark. The eggs are bluish white, very sparingly blotched or spotted with reddish brown. In size they are about 1.55x2.

RED TAILED HAWK.—*Buteo borealis*. This large species is one of our common landscape markings, for any painting of Cedar Lake without one of these majestic birds on it would not be accurate. Often before I found this species breeding did I enquire of the farmers and hunters about their breeding places and kinds of eggs. One Sunday in the Spring of 1885 while out strolling, I chanced to see one of their bulky nests in the top of a red oak tree and saw a bird fly from the nest. I could scarcely contain myself until I had climbed the "hard" tree and found two eggs in the nest. The eggs are bluish white spotted with brown and umber, measuring about 2x2.30 and almost invariably two in number. The usual note about their using the same nest year after year I do not think can be verified for I have examined a number of nests and never found one occupied the second time.

SHARP SHINNED HAWK.—*Accipiter fuscus*. A popular name for this species is "pigeon" hawk, but it should not be confused with the true Pigeon Hawk, *Aesalon columbarius*. Like the cooperi, it is also very dashing, attacking birds of its own size and weight. The nest is usually built in the branches of a tree: composed of sticks, hay and strips of bark. The eggs are bluish white thickly spotted with reddish brown, three to five in number and measure about 1.53x1.20.

BALD EAGLE.—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. This is the well chosen symbol of our country and notwithstanding divers opinions, such as Peck's and Josh Billings' who wanted the turkey and mule instead. It is not an altogether unsuitable emblem for it exactly illustrates our policy. Indifferent to the extreme heat or cold; adapted to maritime as well as inland, one time securing an independent living and then robbing the Fish Hawk of his prey. Formerly it was a common resident with us, but as the country became more thickly settled they became the target for every "backwoods" rifle and as a result they were driven from our midst. Their grace when flying is proverbial; it rises by a series of spiral curves until almost invisible, when it descends in a swoop in the form of a cycloid, with incredible velocity. To give it greater power, the wings are hollowed on the inner side.

Bred commonly in former years but I have never found it breeding although I have heard several hermits along the "wild and raging" Kankakee river speak of its breeding. From a notorious nest one of the townships in this county was called Eagle. The nest, which is probably the largest structure placed in trees in

this country, is nearly always placed in a dead tree, probably to enable the "King" to survey the surrounding country and keep out of danger; thereby giving rise to the common idea of their causing the tree to die. They always select a tree that it is impossible to climb, but for all their precaution their specie does not multiply to any perceptible extent, for owing to the flatness of their nests, nearly every storm blows down their eggs. From one to two eggs are laid; the color is pure white and they measure about 3x2.50. The adult plumage, i. e. white head and tail with a black body, requires three years to become perfect. The young the first year are black and are called "Black Eagles;" the second year they are gray and are called "Gray Eagles." They evince great partiality for fish and any bright afternoon you can see one or two plying their vocation, catching fish on the Lake. This is done by flying over the waters and when observing a fish dashing down and bearing it away in their powerful talons. All the specimens I have ever skinned had a strong, fishy smell.

The Ichthyosaurus.

BY W. D. CROW.

Many of the most curious of the saurians have been classified by geologists into a genus called the Ichthyosaurus, a word which means both fish and lizard. This reptile had the head of a lizard with which was combined the teeth of the crocodile and a nose like a porpoise. It also had the paddles of a whale, the breast-bone of a duck-bill and vertebrae of a fish, thus combining in one creature peculiarities of three distinct classes.

The eye was of greater size than that of any living animal and constructed to admit a great quantity of light. On the front of the eye socket were thin, bony plates placed around the pupil. By retraction these bones pressed the front of the eye forward so turning it into a microscope and when at rest they made it into a telescope. This must have given it the power to see great distances at night or when far under water.

The covering of its body was a naked skin. The food of the ichthyosaurus was mainly composed of fish, although the remains of its own young have been found in its stomach.

Floating Islands.

BY E. P. NEWCOMER.

These islands are composed of masses of driftwood, among which drifting sands and earth collect and form a soil in which plants take root and flourish. An early notice of this phenomenon is recorded in an interesting letter of the younger Pliny to Gallus in which he describes the appearance of a number of floating islands in the Lacus Vadimonis, now Laghetto-di Bassaon, near Rome. They were covered with rushes and reeds and the sheep grazing upon the borders of the lake, passed upon them to feed and were often floated away from the shore.

These islands are often met with on the great rivers of South America, carrying the abundant productions of the vegetable and animal life of the tropics and placing them in new localities.

The great rafts of some of our western rivers are of this nature; for the most part these do not float from place to place but masses are occasionally detached and drift out from the mouth of the Mississippi, carrying the birds, serpents and alligators that had taken refuge on them.

The floating gardens of "chinampas" of Mexico are described by Prescott as an archipelago of floating islands. The primitive Aztecs covered rafts of woven reeds and rushes with the fertile sediment drawn up from the lake. Upon these gardens some of which were 300 feet in length, the Indians cultivated flowers and vegetables for the market of Tenochtitlan. Some of the "chinampas" were firm enough to sustain small trees and a hut and could be moved about at the will of the owner.

Remarkable floating islands occur in the Malay Archipelago.

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" 11 " comp	20
Losen 10 " "	20
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U. S. of Columbia, '81 5 var comp	15

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Bavaria, '70, 7 var. complete,	25
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Bhore, 2 var. complete,	25
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9 var 5r to 300r	2 00
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Official 5 var	1 25
'68 4 var	40
Danube Steam Nav Co 4 var complete	15
Guanaeste 5 var complete	1 00
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'78 " "	30
Env & wrapper cut sq 4 var comp	20
Hamburg 10 var	10
Env 7 var comp	15
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20 var	40
wrappers 3 var comp	10
Honduras '65 wrappers 2 var complete	12
Italy '55 3 var	75
Japan '71 4 var	60
Macao 7 var 5r to 100r	75
Mexico '64 Eng 4 var complete	1 25
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colored 6 var comp	50
Naples head 7 var	20
8 var	25
Nepaul 3 var	65
Porto Rico '82 1-2 to 8m 6 var	08
Persia official 4 var complete	25
Rajpootia letter sheets 3 var	12
Roman States '68 7 var complete	09
Romania '66 3 var complete	12
San Domingo '79 4 var comp	55
Salvador '67	40
Samoa 4 var	20
8 var complete	60
Sardinia 6 var	06
Saxony arms 5 var	09
Servia '68 7 var	15
Siam 5 var complete	55
Spain official 4 var complete	19
Swi. erland "Ausser Kurs" 10 var complete	25
Thurn & Taxis 14 var	40
Transvaal '69 5 var complete	25

The Stamps of Spain.
BY J. WHITTEMORE HALSEY.
(Continued.)
The first series of postage stamps were
issued in 1850 and bear a diademed pro-
file of Queen Isabella II, facing to the ob-
server's left on the 6 cuartos and to the
right on the other values, on ground of
crossed lines. Value above, 1850 below.
"Correos" at left, "Franco" at right on
the 6 and 12 cuartos and "Certificado" on
the others. The values are:

6 cuartos, black,
12 " lilac,
5 reales, red,
6 " blue,
10 " green.
This set is quite rare, the last two val-
ues being catalogued at \$2.50 each.
In 1851 another issue appeared. The
profile of the Queen with fillet of pearls,
on solid disk faces to the observer's
right. On the oval band, "Franco" on 6
and 12 cuartos. "Certifo" on the others:
value above. "Correos 1851" below. Orna-
ments in the corners. Following are the
values.

6 (seis) cuartos, black,
12 (doce) " lilac,
2 (dos) reales, orange,
5 (cinco) " rose,
6 (seis) " blue,
10 (diez) " green.

The two reales orange, of this issue is
extremely rare and is catalogued at \$25.

In the issue of 1852 the head faces to
the observer's left again. Profile of Queen
with plain fillet, solid circular disk.
"Franco" or "Certido" and value at the
top, "Correos 1852" at the bottom of the
stamp, in straight lines. The values are
6 cuartos, rose,
12 " violet,
2 reales, red,
5 " green,
6 " pale blue.

The 2 reales red is very rare and is cat-
alogued at \$20.

In 1853 the diademed profile of the
Queen on solid disk, in beaded oval, faces
to the observer's right. "Correos 1853"
above, "Franco" or "Certido" and value
below. Lined spandrels. The val-
ues and colors are

6 cuartos, carmine,
12 " violet,
2 reales, scarlet,
5 " green,
6 " dark blue.

At Madrid in 1853 there occurred an in-
surrection. It was of short duration,
however, but two stamps were issued and
used for postage. They contain the city
arms, (bear climbing a tree) in oval band
supported by branches and crowns above.
"Correo Interior" at the top. Value at
the bottom. The values are:

1 cuarto, bronze,
3 cuartos, "

The design of the issue of 1854 is very
different from the preceding. Arms of
Spain on white disk, an ornament in each
corner, "Correos" at top on the 2 cuartos,
and "Correos 1854" on the others, value
below. The values are:

2 cuartos, green,
4 " rose,
4 " " on bluish paper,
1 real, light blue,
1 " dark "

The balance of the issue is similar to
the above, arms on a solid ground, sprays
in the corners, "Correos 1854" at top,
"Certido" and value with the exception of
the 6c, at the bottom. The values are:

6 cuartos, carmine,
2 reales, scarlet,
5 " green,
6 " blue.

In 1855 appears the laureated profile of
the Queen to the left, on solid disk, in
pearled circle, "Correos" above, value be-
low. Watermark of loops. Blue paper.
The values are:

2 cuartos, green,
4 " carmine,
1 reale, blue,
2 reales, violet-brown.

The design of the 1856 issue is the
same as the last, on rough white paper
with watermark of diagonally crossed
lines. The values are:

2 cuartos, green,
4 " rose,
1 reale, blue,
2 reales, violet-brown.

1857 the same design, on smooth white
paper, no watermark.

2 cuartos, green,
4 " rose,
1 reale blue,
4 reales, lilac.

In 1859 a 12c. orange was issued to go
with this set, but it was never used for
postal purposes.

In 1860 appears the diademed profile of
the Queen facing to the observer's left on
solid disk, in ornamental circular frame.
On ornamental band above, "Correos,"
and the value in a straight line at the bot-
tom, lined background. Values:

2 cuartos, green on green paper.
2 " lilac on lilac "
4 " orange on green "
12 " carmine on buff "
1 reale, blue on green "
2 reales, lilac on lilac "

In 1861 a 19 cuartos was issued of
same design as the above, brown on buff
paper.

The design is changed again in 1862.
The diademed profile of the Queen faces
to the left on solid oval disk in oval frame
inscribed at top "Espana" and at the sides
"Correos" and value at bottom. The
arms of Castile and Leon are in alternate
corners; ornamented frame. Values:

2 cuartos, blue on brown paper,
4 " brown on salmon "
12 " blue on flesh "
19 " rose on blue "
1 reale, brown on yellow "
2 reales, green on flesh "

1864, diademed head of Queen on solid
disk in pearled oval, "Correos" above,
value and "1864" below, values;

2 cuartos, blue on lilac,
4 " rose on flesh,
12 " green on pink,
19 " lilac on green,
1 real, brown on green,
2 reales, blue on pink.

Another design appears in 1865. Dia-
demed profile of Queen to left on lined
disk in oval frame, inscribed "Espana"
above, "Correos" below. Lion and castle
in ovals at top, numerals of value in ovals
at the bottom. Values:

2 cuartos, carmine,
4 " blue,
12 " blue and pink,
19 " brown and pink,
1 real, green,
2 reales violet,
2 " rose.

This set was also issued perforated.

In 1866, diademed profile of Queen to
left in lined circular disk, "Correos" above
in a curved line, value below. Perforat-
ed.

2 cuartos, rose,
4 " blue,
12 " orange,
19 " brown,
10 cent de escudo, green,
20 " " lilac.

Same design as the 1864 issue with val-
ue and "1866" below:
20c., lilac.
(To be continued.)

Nesting Habits of Traill's Flycatcher.
(*Empidonax traillii* forsteri.)
BY W. INGRAM.

My first acquaintance with this bird
was made in 1882, when I found a single
nest. Since then I have found three or
four nests yearly. Last year I found ten.
They were all, with two or three excep-
tions found along a stream in a large mead-
ow. A nest before me is three inches
high and three in diameter. The cavity
is two inches in diameter by one and one-
half in depth. The site of the nest was
the swaying limb of a wild plum tree. It,
like many others was set on the limb in
the manner of a robin's, being fastened
to the limb below by hempen fibers. The
nests were all compactly built, outwardly
of hempen fibers and dry grass and
lined with very fine grass and a few feath-
ers from the breast of the bird. They
were placed from two to ten ft. from the
ground, one being in a maple tree ten ft.
high. The eggs have a creamy-white
ground color with markings varying much
in different sets, some having small spots
and minute dots, while others have large
blotches also. The markings are princi-
pally at the larger end and present many
shades of red, brick-red, reddish-brown
and sometimes a faint lavender tint. The
eggs measure from .70x.50 to .77x.56.
The earliest set was taken June 12, '83
and the latest a set of two July 15, '85.
(Left until the 18th for a full set.) I
have two sets of four, but three is the
general number.

They are very shy and retired birds, se-
creting themselves at the least alarm, oc-
casionaly uttering a sharp note or two.
Most of their time is spent in and around
low well-watered places and after the
breeding season is over they are seldom
seen except early in the day when they
may be seen searching for food along the
streams. By the middle of September
they have all gone south and return in
spring about the 26th of May.

Why Some Lakes are Salt.

The cause of the saltiness of some Am-
erican lakes is too patent to require many
words of explanation. It is probable that
when continents were raised from the sea,
the lake-basins had been already formed,
and came up, therefore, brimful of
water.

In the northern and eastern parts of
this continent, where the rain and snow-
fall exceeds the loss by evaporation, the
salt being continuously carried away
through the outlets, has become so di-
luted as to be an imperceptible quantity. In

arid regions, as the Pacific Slope and the
country about the Caspian, where the
evaporation was in excess of the supply,
the water level of the lakes continuously
sank until on account of the diminished
extent of surface, the equilibrium of
loss and gain was attained. Hence the
exceeding saltiness of Great Salt Lake, the
Dead sea, etc.

For a like reason the water of the Med-
iterranean contains more salt, relatively,
than the ocean. Evaporation exceeding
the supply from the rivers and rain-fall,
it requires a constant current through the
strait of Gibraltar. The same is true of
the Red sea, causing a like current through
the strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.

Other salt or brackish lakes, probably
owe their saltiness to the supplies from
the land. Water being the most general
of all solvents, the rains gather up the
chloride of sodium from the soils and dis-
integrating rocks and where the streams
fall into lakes whose only outlet is evap-
oration the land itself must be a constant
source of saline supply and the waters
become more and more salt until their
capacity as a solvent has been reached.

The Utah Baisin must once have been
filled to its brim with ocean water. The
outlet is evaporation. The lake, reced-
ing to its present level has left many evi-
dences of its former extent.—[Popular
Science Monthly.

Our readers would do well to look over
our Exchange column. There are many
bargains offered there each issue and this
number is no exception to the general
rule.

Rare Coins.

Probably nearly every one in the United
States knows that there are many coins in
circulation that are worth much more than
their face value, but they wouldn't know
them if they should meet them in the
middle of the street. We have issued a
Premium Coin List, containing 94 illustra-
tions, and giving our buying prices for
every U. S. coin worth over face value.
Every one who handles money should
possess a copy. Price, 10 cents, or 3 for
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Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

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A new International Stamp Al-
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new. A few stamps have been hinged in
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moved without hurting the book, price 75c.

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for the lot.

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Trade Dollar, 1874, proof, \$2.75.

1875, " 2.50.

1878, " 2.25.

1879, " 2.00.

1880, " 2.00.

10 nickels, 1883, old style, \$1.

" " " " "V" without cents \$1.

Twenty Cent Piece, 1875, uncir. \$.50

1876, barely cir. .60

1877, proof, 5.00

1878, " 4.00

1795, silver dollar, fine, \$3.

Half Dollar, 1795, good, \$2.50.

1815, " 5.00

Silver 3c. piece, 1854, very fine, \$.25.

1866 " " .50.

1868 proof, 1.00.

1870 " 1.50.

1871 very fine, 1.25.

1872, Two Cent piece, fine, .50

Half Dollar, 1809, fair condition, \$.85

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1827 proof, 1.00

1828 " 1.00

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1835 " .85

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with his trade, he can return them and I
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1821 " 1.25.

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Georgius III, 1813 3 sh. fair, \$1.50

Half Dollar, 1821 fine \$.75

1807 good .85

1826 barely cir. .85

1859 " " .85

1836 milled edge,
barely cir. 5.00

1833 " " .85

1832 " " .85

1822 " " .85

1818 good .75

1830 fine .75

1825 good .75

1838 fine .75

PINK & WHITE Jasper arrow heads sent
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Hardin Co., Ohio. *16

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The best packet for the money ever put up. GRAN-
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Lock Box D, Newmarket, N. H.

WANTED TO BUY
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Or Exchange, all kinds of birds' skins
and eggs in large or small collections.
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Malden, - - - Mass.

From Martha's Vineyard.
6 cards of mosses, kelp, sea and pond grass sent
to any address for 30c. in stamps. Grasses, anchors,
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any found elsewhere.
Dealers wishing to purchase sea curiosities please
send stamp for list and prices.
Box 63, Squibnocket, Duke's Co., Mass. *15

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spondence in English, German, French, Dutch and
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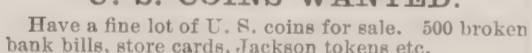
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W. S. BEEKMAN,

Box 108, - West Medford, Mass.

Desert of Sahara.

BY J. W.

Sahara in Africa is the largest desert in
the world, it being one-half the size of
Europe and yet it forms only part of one
which extends with interruptions eastward
through central Asia, forming a belt equal
to one-third the circumference of the
globe. The lack of sufficient moisture in
the soil which characterizes this belt of
land is caused by the dryness of the air.
The African part of this desert lies about
half within and half beyond the Torrid
zone. Its greatest length lies from east
to west and is twice as long as it is wide,
it being 2500 miles long by 1200 wide. It
is not a low, level waste of sand, but an
immense table-land, in the main, it being
from 1000 to 1500 ft. in height and here
and there, especially in the east and cen-
tre, you will find smaller plateaus. Most
of its area is composed of firm soil of sol-
id masses of indurated sand, sandstone
and granite which sometimes rise into
large hills and are swept into large rav-
ines. Examined geologically it would
doubtless exhibit the usual rock varieties,
but the only mineral that has yielded to
man's necessities is rock salt, which in
one part exists so plentifully as to afford
material for building houses.

The sand with which the desert abounds
has, under the action of the sun's heat
and the impulse of the winds, been
extensively divided into a subtle
powder, which, when the hurricane swells,
moves, rolls and labors like the waves of
the sea and sometimes rises into hills that
have been found to be 300 feet in depth.

Sahara has for ages been crossed
by different routes by companies of men
mounted on camels, called caravans.
Sometimes these caravans have been
known to number 2000 camels. These
caravans however picturesque at starting,
at halting or en route are often exposed
to perils. Except now and then meeting
another company they will journey on for
days without seeing a living creature.
The heat caused by the direct and reflect-
ed rays of the burning sun, shaded by not
a single cloud, communicates to the soil
and atmosphere an absolutely scorching
quality, so that you breathe an air some-
times at 120 and pass over a surface heat-
ed to 150°. At night such is the radia-
tion of heat from the soil into unclouded
space, that water, owing to the quantity
of heat thus abstracted, will freeze before
morning, and so small a quantity of
vapor is there in the atmosphere that the
rising sun is preceded by no twilight, but
announces itself at once on the horizon as
a ball of fire. But of all the perils to which
the traveler in the desert is exposed, the
greatest and most dreadful are those
which accompany the simoon. This is a
hurricane which, after a brief array of
domesday-like warnings, burst over its
expanse like a blast from a seven-fold
heated furnace, parching up the very
blood in the body and choking and suf-
focating with burning dust the mouths and
nostrils of men and beasts. This last is
so penetrating that in spite of every pre-
caution, it will, in many cases stop up the
air passages. And even when it is not
immediately fatal, the rapid evaporation
the heat induces dries up the skin and
produces inflammation, fever and a madden-
ing thirst. In 1805 the simoon thus des-
troyed a caravan of two thousand persons
and as many camels and everywhere in
these deserts the traveler comes upon
memorials of its desolating ravages. In
this region there is no dew and seldom,
except in the mountains, any rain not of-
tener than once in ten or twenty years.
The rains which fall on the mountainous
regions, which they do in tropical show-
ers from time to time for some months
every year, either immediately evaporate
or percolate the soil. What soil or rather
sand, absorbs in this way gives rise in
all probability to the underground waters
which the Arabs from immemorial times,
in many quarters, came upon by digging
to various depths below; and the presu-
med universal presence has led the Arabs
to designate Sahara by a name that signi-
fies the "Island that floats on a subterra-
nean sea." These subsoil waters, so to
speak are here and there all over the desert,
but principally towards the east and north,
rise of themselves to the surface and ap-
pear as springs. The spots they irrigate
are called Wadies or Oases and these are
gardens of fertility and paradises of beau-
ty, yielding dates, fruits in every variety
and grain, supporting in many cases a
population of several thousands. The
springs and by which the verdure of these
spots subsist and are nourished, are
guarded by the natives as true holy wells,
the filling or drying up of which would
convert it an once into a portion of the
general surrounding waste. Nor is this
contingency at all uncommon, as the scat-
tered ruins of important villages too plain-
ly testify. The oasis of Teibaich perish-
ed in this way not many years ago and to-
day the stems of the palm-trees may be

seen standing out of the sand, which bur-
ies it like the masts of some stranded fleet.
The date tree is the life of these green
spots in the wilderness and the date, like
the palm tree, must, as the Arabs say,
have "its feet in the water and its head in
the fire." Without the palm-trees there
would be no oases, without the oases no
world for man to occupy and so the na-
tives say that God made the palm-tree
when he made man.

Not the least striking phenomenon wit-
nessed by the wayfarer in these solitudes
is that known as the mirage, of which
many wonderful accounts are giv-
en and the deception it produces has mis-
led the inexperienced and the unwary from
the earliest ages. Often, as the caravan
journeys over the desert, all the company
it may be, overcome with fatigue, mad-
dened with thirst and nearly blinded with
the light reflected from the burning sand
will descry on the verge of the hori-
zon what seems as glistening of water
and the waving of palm trees. In these
circumstances it is said the eye will dis-
cern in the distance now smiling land-
scapes and now green islands; here rivers
flowing between fertile banks and there
cities with their mosques, while again at
other times is clearly visible a caravan
halting under the date clusters, with the
camels browsing on the herbage or
quenching their thirst by the palm-tree
wells. Deceived by visions of this
nature and goaded by thirst, the traveler
will often turn aside from the route in
search of water. Such is the mirage and
the images it creates owe their fantastic
forms to the combined action of the agi-
tation in the atmosphere of the desert and
the feverish excitement in the brain of
the thirsty traveller as he traverses its
wastes.

Gigantic Oaks.

BY K. Y. STEPHENSON.

In the issue of the Scientific American
of July 23, mention is made of a gigantic
oak discovered in the bed of the Rhone
and now on view at the Havre exhibition.
The dimensions are given as follows:
Length, 101.6 feet; circumference at ori-
gin of roots 29.5; circumference at level
of the soil 19.6. Our friends the French-
men must (seeing the labor they have
been at), be proud of their oak, and at
the same time ignorant of some of the
huge oaks still growing in England.

The largest oak now standing in Eng-
land is the Cowthorpe oak, measuring 78
feet in circumference at the ground. Tra-
dition says at one time the tree and its
branches covered an acre of ground. I
visited this tree a few years ago, and al-
though quite hollow and its interior mad
to serve for a calf pen, some of its branch-
es still have plenty of leaves and
acorns.

A few miles from Cowthorpe stands a
farm house. On the lawn stands a ma-
jestic oak, as to size and beauty such a
tree as we seldom see in a month's walk-
ing tour. A certificate is kept in the
farm house which states that the tree on
the lawn was an acorn from "the big oak
at Cowthorpe." Dates are given. The
Parliamentary oak in Clipstone Park is
supposed to be 1,500 years old. This park
is supposed by the ancient chroniclers to
have existed before the conquest (1066),
and belongs to the Duke of Portland.
The "tallest oak in England" belonged to
the same nobleman. It was called the
"Duke's walking stick," and was higher
than Westminster Abbey. The "Three
Shire oak," near Worksop, is so called
because its branches stand in three coun-
ties—Nottingham, Derby and York. Per-
haps the most productive oak was that of
Gelemos, in Monmouthshire, felled in
1810. Its bark sold for \$1000 and its tim-
ber for \$3350. In the mansion at Trede-
gar Park in Monmouthshire, there is a
room 42 feet long and 27 broad, the floor
wainscot of which are the product of a
single tree felled on the estate.

In Dr. Hunter's edition of Evelyn's Syl-
via is a figure of the Cowthorpe oak al-
ready alluded to. About a mile and a
half from Shrewsbury, there formerly
stood an oak 44 feet in circumference at
the base, 27 inches in circumference at
8 feet from the ground.

There formerly stood in Hainault For-
est, near Barking, Essex, a tree called the
Fairlop oak, 36 feet in circumference. Mr.
Gilpin, in his "Forest Scenery," says that
the tradition of the country traces this
tree half way up the Christian era. This
tree was naturally the pride of the villag-
ers of the district and according to the
annals of the neighborhood received its
name of Fairlop in this way: The farmer
on whose estate the tree grew wanted to
lop off a branch. The villagers objected.
The farmer, however, in lieu of the
branch agreed to give the parishoners a
bean feast annually. This was agreed to
and the annual fair was called Fairlop.
This tree fell some years ago, and I think
was made into a pulpit. The fair was

here until a few years ago and still called
Fairlop Feast. As the site of the fair is
only a few miles from London, it was ful-
ly patronized by the light-fingered gentry,
card sharppers and thimble riggers. The
writer remembers visiting this fair some
years ago. The finest "turn-out" on the
road was the car of the licensed victual-
ers. This was in the shape of a boat and
drawn by six horses.

The oak shown at the Havre exhibition
is said to be 400 years old—a small age
for an oak, as will be seen from the ages
of those alluded to above. Some of the
best poets have sung the praise of the
oak, singing its usefulness and longevity.
Dryden says:

"The monarch oak, the patriarch of the trees,
Starts rising up by slow degrees.
Three centuries he grows, and three he stays
In state supreme, and in three more decays."

In these days of iron ships, armor-plat-
ed hulls and steel yachts we are apt to
forget the service done by our old wood-
en ships. Pope sang of the oak, saying;

"Let India boast her plants, nor envy we
The weeping amber and the balm tree.
While by our oaks the precious loads are borne."

—[Scientific American.]

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are
inserted one issue for 5 cents or 3 issues or 10 cents.
Over 24 words and less than 48, 10 cents for one
issue or 3 issues for 20 cents. This column
is open to the public at these rates, whether they are
subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a
brunnen Gen stamp album containing space for
600 stamps, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake
Village, N. H.

Exchange desired with stamp collectors in all parts
of the world. Philatelic papers wanted, complete
volumes especially desired. Address N. E. Carter,
Delavan, Wis. *15

I wish to exchange for collections of eggs, stamps
and Indian Relics; what is wanted; enclose
stamp for list Wm. L. Puffer Brockton, Mass. *15

Arrow points, fossil ferns, curiosity papers,
mounted birds; match, medicine and document
stamps wanted; send lists. O. D. Walbridge,
Mansfield, Ill. *17

Coral, shell, vegetable fossils given collectors pay-
ing postage or express and for packing, not exceed-
ing three pounds; hundreds large, small and good
Mrs. W. C. Pratt, Norvell, Jackson Co., Mich. *15

Curiosity World Vol. 1, Nos 1, 4, 6, 7; Quaker City
Philatelist, Vol. 1, No 9, Vol. 2, Nos 4 and 6. Send
what you will give in philatelic papers. Wm. H.
Bacon, West Newton, Mass.

End blown Swallow Tail Kite's egg or Davie's
Egg Check List for a powder or shot flask. Frank
Coyne, Box 72, East Orange, N. J.

100 boys books to exchange for watch, school
books, coins, gold chain or collection of stamps. H.
Bishop, 10 W 35th St., New York City.

A C. G. Bonehill breech-loading rifle, twist barrel
lever, pistol grip, choke bored shot gun, 21 brass
shells, a set of nickel plated re-loading tools and am-
munition for a 32 calibre rifle. Frank B. Gouch, 98
So Broadway, Yonkers, N. Y.

25 Foreign stamps all different for 18 cigarette
pictures, of any brand; small ones preferred and
they must be all different. Wm. William, Box 288
Charleston, S. C.

Mexican copper coins to exchange for Confederate
money and American half cents. J. A. Boswell,
1521 L'apin St., St. Louis, Mo.

Complete sets of uncanceled departments, War,
Justice, State, Treasury and Post Office in perfect
condition for the best offer of a 32 calibre rifle.
Frank B. Gouch, 98 So Broadway, Yonkers, N. Y.

I want all kinds of U. S. stamps, department, re-
venue, envelopes, square cut etc. Florida and Bahama
curiosities to exchange for the above. F. C. Sawyer,
Beaulieu, Florida.

300 mixed foreign stamps for 500 common U S
stamps not containing over 100 of a kind. W. W.
Hurlbut, Salem, Mass. *16

For a U S cent of 1824, '36 '44, or '56, I offer 15
curiosity and stamp papers, 2 foreign coins, a stamp
worth 10 cents, or 300 mixed foreign stamps. For a
cent of 1813 or 1825 in good condition, two V nickels
without cents, a Mexican silver coin or 1,000 foreign
stamps. Charles P. Rowley, Box 316, Po'keepsie,
N. Y.

100 books by Alger, Castlemore, etc. large printing
press, type, etc. for large collection of stamps or U
S departments. H. Bishop, 10 W 35th St., New
York City.

I will exchange specimens of Tapa cloth for min-
erals, bird's eggs, Indian relics, coins or curiosities.
Roy Jones, 170 Albert St., London, Ont.

Beautiful unused Hawaiian postal cards (3 var)
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Emmerson, Carbondale, Ill.

90 mixed foreign stamps for 35 3c 1872 green; V
nickel without cents for 250 3c green or 1c 1870 gril-
led. Register seal for 15c P O or 6 or 10c Agricul-
ture or 2 or 10c Navy; 20 first issue U S postal cards
for 50c probate of will or \$10 revenue. Other U S
stamps to exchange. B. S. Monroe, box 42, Romulus,
N. Y.

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India relics; State wants and what you desire in ex-
change. Geo. L. Spence, Martins Ferry, O.

Will exchange a \$2.50 International stamp album
(old edition but in fair condition with guards and
blank pages for new issues) for the best offer of
Agriculture, Navy or Justice Department stamps.
Wanted a 9c Navy and Justice. Make me an offer
for the album. A. Melvin Jones, Hoosick Falls, N.
Y.

100 varieties of post marks for every single number
of the Seaside Library in good condition sent me; 20
varieties of stamps for every stamp paper, no less
than 4 taken. Howard Kenned, Centre Bridge, Pa.

I have 31 dozen boxes of cigar and pipe lights
manufactured by Rich, Bell & Co., of London; I
would like to exchange them for Excelsior printing
press large enough for postal cards. L. G. Bishop,
Necoda, Wis.

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student than insect collecting. This book
contains much valuable information as to
the outfit necessary for collecting, the
manner of preparing and mounting insects,
the preparation of a cabinet, etc., and
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The book is recommended by the Agassiz
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star fish, sea urchin and shark's egg and my 14
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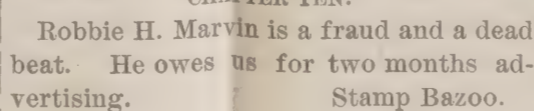
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Three presses for coining which were imported arrived during September and in the beginning of October they were first used in striking some half dimes. All of the pieces struck during this year were classed as pattern pieces, the regular coinage not beginning until the next year.

RIVAL No. 0, contains 50 var. including Reputa-
Dominicani, U. S. of Columbia, Ecuador,
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JOHN M. HUBBARD, PUBLISHER,
LAKE VILLAGE, N. H.

Entered at the post office at Lake Village, N. H., as Second Class Matter.

OCTOBER 15, 1887.

Subscribe for the WORLD.

The Eastern Philatelist is to appear from Fitchburg, Mass., sometime this month.

The December 1st issue of the CURIOSITY WORLD will be 10,000 copies. Advertising rates \$1 per inch.

The Chariton Gazette has suspended and Mr. Voiland, the publisher, has paid back all money received for subscriptions.

We will give a new GEM stamp album containing space for 600 stamps, for only 200 square cent envelope stamps. See adv.

Mr. Harold R. Miller, Stamp Dealer, formerly of Lima, Peru, has moved to London, England.

Mr. D. Prosky has purchased the entire stock formerly owned by Mr. Lyman H. Low, coin dealer, New York City.

W. H. Danforth, of Worcester, Mass., has bought out the Blackstone Stamp Co. of that city, and will continue the business.

A San Francisco coin dealer claims to have imported 10,000 Japanese Tempoes. It must have cost him something for freight.

Our readers would do well to look over our Exchange column. There are many bargains offered there each issue and this number is no exception to the general rule.

John G. L. Dohme, formerly one of the proprietors of the American Philatelist, published several years ago, was recently arrested for burglary in New York City.

The Philatelic Magazine, published by W. F. Bishop, La Grange, Ill. is no more. But nine numbers were issued. Another case where a man's courage was better than his judgment.

The probabilities are that Mr. H. B. Seagrave, of Iona, Mich., will be elected Treasurer of the A. P. A., and the choice for Secretary lies between Messrs. W. H. Lightstone of Evansville, Ind., and W. V. Nicholson of Erie, Pa.

We have received a copy of the "Cyclopedia of Philately" compiled by W. H. Baker, Jr., and published by the Quaker City Philatelist Publishing Co., of Phila. It is nicely gotten up, contains 64 pages and cover and is an addition to any philatelic library.

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883.) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886.) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

We have just purchased the entire stock of stamps and private collection of stamps and philatelic literature of F. L. Perry of Portland, Maine. The lot includes at more than \$1,000 and contains some fine old envelopes, entire, and a large lot of rare adhesives, unused post cards and entire envelopes, etc. This addition increases our private collection by about 300 varieties of adhesives, besides many post cards and entire envelopes.

We have received from Mr. Phil S. Bonney, of Little Sioux, Iowa, a "Sioux City Corn Palace Medal." It was struck in commemoration of the Corn Palace and Harvest Jubilee Festival, which took place October 3rd to 8th, inclusive. This is the first exhibition of the kind the world has ever known, we believe. The Palace is 100 feet square, 100 feet high and almost entirely covered inside and out with corn, bundles of wheat and oats, fruit and vegetables. Designs of almost every description are to be found made of corn etc. Suspended from the central dome hangs a huge bell made of corn, lined with wheat and oat straws, and for a clapper, a common yellow pumpkin is used. Mr. Bonney informs us that from 18,000 to 25,000 people visited the exhibition daily. The medal is bronze and is very nicely gotten up.

What Shall I Study First?

Nearly every collector during some portion of his or her career as an active worker in science, will ask of themselves or teachers the above question. They may have gathered during the vacation months, material for the winter's indoor contemplations. It is no wonder that they ask the above question, when for the first few times they sit before a spread of the "rocks of the fields." Certainly no more formal or stony-seated appearing subjects could be selected for an evening's entertainment. The first outset is discouraging in appearance. It may seem incredible that these stones can furnish us with truthful and romantic sketches of their past creation. If one was suddenly transported to a land of a new tongue, the language of which they could not speak, but the ideas of the spoken could be quite easily grasped, it would be their first and most earnest endeavor to ask some simple, easily spoken question, which for an answer would require a comprehensive and thorough statement. It is thus with the first interview of an audience of rocks. The commencing thought will instead of being "What shall I say first?" be "What shall I study first?" And even as to the former, so with the latter, that first inquiry must be such that will most thoroughly and simply call forth the most exact and comprehensive answer. All of the prevalent starting points are supposed to fulfil this requirement to perfection and I presume many do. Surely if you commence with observing the streak of minerals and apply this mode of investigation to every mineral you examine, without any effort on your part outside of that required for the application of this examination, you become thoroughly familiar with the following, which are noticed simultaneously while observing the streak. The hardness of the mineral is noticed, its state of aggregation, the true color, (its streak,) its contaminated ingredients, (its original color,) drawn by inference and its degree of opaqueness. By considering in place of this the specific weight, all of the above will be more conspicuously presented, together with a few new features. It is more than probable that the purity of the specimen, its cleavage, fracture, lustre and aggregated state, will be more firmly realized by the investigation. Now adding to this, the constant specific weight, itself as a better indicator of species, than the possession of its varying streak. I certainly feel that this will be found in actual practice, to be the "In the beginning" of a collector's individual existence.

Besides the above, we might add for its favor that the process for ascertaining the specific weight is interesting in itself, while the mere scratching of a rock to obtain its streak does not prove much of a scientific investigation.

The apparatus once ready for use is always at hand; the calculation and differences of the same specimen, for altered temperatures, all tend to an elevated respect for petty manipulation, systematic observations and an antidote for lazy indifference. Being once familiar with the accurateness of specific weight, we will not confound the colorless topazes, quartz or clear carbons. We may also apply the principles for home-trade protection against inferior substitutes, for culinary purposes.

Let us first consider what is ordinarily implied by weight; a phenomena with which we are all familiar, the foundations of which we may know more or less about. The consideration of weights, measures, and specific gravities are considered under a division of knowledge called metrology. The sense of weight of a body cannot be intelligently conveyed to the mind unless a means of comparison be established and as weight is the measure of the gravitating force of a body, so this force is expressed as related to a standard of resistance, this being exactly that which would balance that body and keep it in equilibrium. The unit or standard used for the means of comparison of the attractive force of gravitation have been somewhat promiscuously selected by various nations, so that it is confusing for one to comprehend the same names given for many of these units, unless they are familiar with the country using them. These standards are arbitrary and in some places entirely different standards are in use in the same area. The ancient standards were deduced from various parts of the human body. Thus we find the nail, foot, span, pace, cubit—length of forearm—orgyia—stretch of the arms—in popular usage. In Great Britain, in the year 1266, during the reign of Henry III, it was established that an English silver penny called the sterling, round and not clipped, should equal the weight of thirty-two grains of wheat, which were to be well dried and taken from the middle of the ear, and twenty pence (pennyweights), do

make an ounce and twelve ounces a pound; eight pounds do make a gallon of wine and eight wine gallons do make a bushel, which is eight of a quarter. A statue of Edward I, 1304, states that every pound of money or medicine shall be of twenty shillings, but the pound of all other things shall be the weight of twenty-five shillings. It was originally intended to have had two ounces and two pounds, the two ounces to weigh alike and the two pounds to consist of twelve and fifteen ounces respectively. Owing to a change made in the value of the coin used for the unit, the weights are one-sixteenth heavier than those of Edward I, also it was found that the troy ounce was heavier than the avoirdupois by forty-two and a half grains.

It is unnecessary to pursue these variations further; the student must evidently understand the great degree of complexity that exists in our own standards of measure. We have an ounce of water, which by troy weighs 470 grains, weighs 437.5 grains avoirdupois and 32 c. c. of the new commercially accepted system of measurement, which is metrically simplicity in itself, but until thoroughly established only adds one new feature of complexity to the already numerous systems. Now by our comparative weight or the ratio of a specific weight, we are brought in contact with a constant one that never changes. No matter what system of weights be used the result will be the same. However, if we are first beginning these investigations and are enthusiastic enough to select a given system of weights, by all means select the metric system, for the following reasons, which after consideration every one will agree that by far this is the best method. (To be continued.)

Mail-Service in Japan.

The postal service of this country is always pointed at as a model in its way—one of the foremost departments of the Europeanized Government. And, indeed, it must in all fairness be acknowledged that much credit belongs to Japan for swiftness in the dispatch of mails, while fettered with a lack of railroads. In the first place, every train carries a mail, and in Japan, be it known, the imperial railroads run through passenger trains every two hours, and on the Yokohama railroad nearly every hour. Thus, while in America three mails each way, daily, would be esteemed the climax of facilities, the minimum between the various cities here in Japan is about ten each way, daily. This applies merely to the railroad cities, of course. The delivery of mails is also very prompt, and takes place a good many times a day. A person may mail a letter in Yokohama for Tokio, one hour's ride to the north, as late as dusk, and yet receive an answer the same night, providing his friend is prompt. While in Yokohama I took occasion to mail a letter in a post-box as late as six o'clock in the evening at a point fully a mile from the post-office. It was soon collected, delivered to the one to whom it was directed over the bluffs, and the same evening I received a call from the recipient. In the interior, the mail is carried from town to town by messengers, who travel at a dog trot in cases where a stage line does not exist.

Every effort is made in the case of foreigners to deliver their mail to them promptly. So anxious are the authorities to deliver mail, that one of the missionary ladies in Kobe says when, last Summer, she went up among the mountains six miles distant, a special man was sent from the office here, really against her wishes, who came all the way on foot and was not content until he had hunted her up and delivered her the mail. The carriers go about the city at a dog trot.—[Philadelphia Press.]

Try an advertisement in our next issue. Only 50 cents per inch for 2,500 circulation.

The American Philatelist, under the new management, has made its appearance. It is well gotten up and looks very nicely and its contents are first-class. We predict a long lived, successful journal.

Stamps at Wholesale.

We have a fine lot of stamps, which we are selling at the following low prices:

Stamps to retail at 1 cent each,	\$.50 per 100.
" 2 cents each,	1.00 "
" 3 " "	1.50 "
" 4 " "	2.00 "
" 5 " "	2.50 "

These are the same stamps that we are selling from our approval sheets. Terms cash.

For \$10.00 we will send 800 stamps to retail at 1c. each; 200 to retail at 2c. each; 100 to retail at 3c. each; 100 to retail at 4c. each and 100 to retail at 5c. each; 30 blank approval sheets; 1 sheet of gummed paper and a two inch ad. in the Curiosity World. Satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded. Try a sample lot. Address J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

To Whom It May Concern.

On account of business changes I am compelled to give up my stamp business altogether. All persons holding bills against me please forward for prompt remittance. All persons holding my approval sheets will please remit promptly.

Thanking my friends for their patronage in the past, I shall remain
Fraternally Yours.
Robt. W. Manier.

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For the beginner we know of no better stamp album than the "Ideal." It contains 72 pages, and space for 12 stamps to the page, making a total of 864 spaces for stamps. It is printed on 70 lb., tinted book paper, and is just the thing for those having a collection of less than 800 varieties, and for more advanced collectors to keep their duplicates in. Price, post free, 15 cents, or two for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Stamps, How to Buy and Sell.

This book, by the well-known author, H. J. Miron, contains much valuable information for both dealer and collector, and is having a very large sale. Every Philatelist should have a copy, and by a careful perusal of its contents he would know many things about the science of Philately that he never knew before. Price, post free, 11 cents, or three copies for 25 cents. Address, John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

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Three months ago I issued a thirty-paged "Handy Book for Collectors." This book was illustrated; descriptions were given of all rare implements in stone, flint, slate and clay. It met with a large sale, over 16,000 copies being sent out. The papers complimented it and collectors were pleased with it. Of the 17,000 copies only about 700 are left. As I expect to start a large relic store in Philadelphia in the near future, I wish to dispose of these books and get out a new issue, somewhat smaller in size. I offer to collectors these books at 10 cents each. They are worth twice that. The information contained in them was gathered from field searches and personal experience. Send for one, before they are all gone. WARREN K. MOOREHEAD, Xenia, Ohio. *17

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6 var. unused Bulgaria, etc.	5c cents
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Roman States '68 7 var complete	12
Roumania '66 3 var complete	55
San Domingo '79 4 var comp	55
Salvador '67	40
Samoa 4 var	20
8 var complete	60
Sardinia 6 var	60
Saxony arms 5 var	60
Servia '68 7 var	15
Siam 5 var complete	55
Spain official 4 var complete	40
Swi. off. and "Ausser Kurs" 10 var complete	40
Thurn & Taxis 14 var	25
Transvaal '69 5 var complete	40

Mounting Entire Envelopes.

BY C. R. GADSDEN.

Ever since I began collecting entire envelopes I have been greatly puzzled in my efforts to find a feasible, practical plan for mounting them. And not myself alone, but many others are in the same predicament; for a perfect plan for mounting envelopes has not yet been made public. Such a plan should include the preserving of specimens intact, without marking, cutting or pasting them, and also admit of each specimen being removed at pleasure, without injury to either the album or the envelope, in order that they may be handled and examined.

I am indebted to my friend Mr. W. C. Kurzweg, of Watertown, Wis., for the details of the plan of mounting entire envelopes that I now lay before philatelists. During the A. P. A. Convention Mr. Kurzweg unfolded this plan to me and it at once impressed me as being what philatelists had long been looking for; and upon trying the plan I came to the conclusion that it was well nigh perfect.

Nothing could be more simple; the whole story can be told in a few words. The plan merely consists of mounting pockets made of the corners of envelopes on cardboard, or paper if you prefer, and slipping the specimens into these pockets—from which they can be removed and replaced at pleasure.

If the reader of this will take the trouble to clip the corners of an envelope—cut them diagonally, forming a right-angled triangle the two short sides of which will be formed of the outer edges of the envelope and be of equal length, about 1 1/4 inches; the third side will be the pocket;—then paste two of these corners on a piece of card board, in such a manner as to cause the two pockets to fall where they will hold the two lower corners of the specimen to be mounted. An excellent feature of the plan shows itself right here; the outer edges of the pocket you have made are perfectly square and thereby aid materially in arranging your specimens with mathematical precision. In fact there is no excuse for arranging them in any other manner.

If you will make this simple experiment you will find that you have two pockets that will securely hold an envelope, and from which the specimen can be removed at any time without difficulty. The different sizes can all be thus provided for by increasing or diminishing, as the case may be, the space between the pockets.

The best material for mounting the envelopes on, is card or Bristol board—the latter is the better,—of about three or four ply. This is kept in stock by all paper dealers, and is 22x28 inches in size. Other sizes are made for special purposes, but the one I mention is the only size always to be found in stock in colors. Colored board should be used, as white or a light tint soils so quickly that it is not advisable to use it. The best color I have seen is a dark maroon, but unfortunately it is almost impossible to find it at the paper dealers, as that is not a regular stock color. A magenta, or something on that order, makes a very acceptable color and the envelopes look much better on a dark background than on a light one.

Bristol board of three ply thickness and of the size above mentioned, costs in the neighborhood of three dollars a hundred sheets. Each sheet may be cut into four sheets 11x14 inches,—a convenient size,—and a hundred of the smaller sheets, costing about seventy-five cents, will be sufficient to mount from six to eight hundred envelopes. For the pockets you can purchase envelopes,—white are the best and they should be of a good quality and thickness,—and cut them up as directed. If you exercise care in purchasing high cut, well gummed envelopes, you can make four pockets from each by first fastening down the flap.

In arranging the envelopes, of course everyone will follow his own plan. Let me tell you how I arranged my 1886 series. First come the No. 1, two 2s, and two 3s on one half the first page; 4 3s and the single No. 4 constitute the other half of the page. Here we have ten envelopes on a page, in two columns, ample space between, and a half inch space all around the outside. The bottom envelope of each column shows entire, the other four in each show about 1 5/8 inches and their entire length; enough to show the stamped impression and a little to spare. Should you desire to show more of each envelope you could place but four, or even three in a column. Until you reach the No. 9s, you can readily arrange the envelopes in two columns and have sufficient blank space about them. But the 9s cannot be placed in double columns without taking up nearly all the space and leaving but very little margin. This difficulty may be overcome by placing these sizes in one column, the long way of the sheet. The official sizes can also be arranged in this manner if you desire to economize space; for my part I have placed them the short way of the sheet and four on a page. My set of the October issue including spaces for thirteen ten-cent envelopes recently issued, making a total of 81 envelopes take up just eleven pages or sheets—making an average of seven to the sheet—and no page is at all crowded. It makes a magnificent display and one that will interest anyone; if he be not a collector, he cannot help but admire the beauty of the pages; and if he be a collector and desires to examine any specimen critically, he can remove such, examine the watermark, gum, knife, etc., and replace it without the least difficulty.

It is important that the collector have a good guide in the arrangement of a collection in the manner I have described. Horner's list is very good, but is long out of date and cannot be depended upon to list all the varieties, many having turned up since it was published. Then, too, many new issues have followed that work. The promised work of Messrs. Bogert and Rechart will undoubtedly furnish this much needed guide.

So far I have urged this plan as applied to envelopes only; why is it not fully as applicable to postal cards? They would have to be spread more, thereby taking

up more space, but they certainly would show to the best possible advantage and be preserved in perfect condition.

These sheets of card board can, as they accumulate, be bound into volumes, if the owner chooses to do so. The expense would not be very great, and the collection would be kept in much better condition in a bound book than in loose sheets.

This plan commends itself to me, and I believe it will to other envelope collectors from the fact that it is quite simple and inexpensive. For about a dollar and a half the material for mounting a collection of six or eight hundred envelopes can be obtained, while the work of mounting is not very great. I spent four hours mounting my first seventy-five envelopes, but can mount as many more in much less time, through profiting by my experience with the first lot. I should be very glad to have envelope collectors try the plan. Perhaps there are still improvements to be made upon it. As it is I think it well worthy the attention of all.—[Western Philatelist.

The Stamps of Spain.

BY J. WHITTEMORE HALSEY.

(Continued.)

The design of the 1867-60 issue is very different from the preceding. Diademed profile of Queen, to left, on lined disk, in oval frame, which is inscribed above, "Correos" de Espana, and the value below; ornaments in each corner which are different on each value. Perforated. The values are:

1867, 2 (dos) cuartos, brown.	
" 4 (cuatro) " blue.	
" 12 (doce) " orange, yellow.	
" 19 cuartos, pink.	
" 25 mills, de esc., blue and rose.	
" 50 " pale brown.	
" 10 cent. de esc., green.	
" 20 " lilac.	
1868, 19 cuartos, brown.	
" 25 milésimas de escudo, blue.	
" 50 " lilac.	
" 100 " brown.	
" 200 " green.	

Two varieties of the following design were issued in 1867; Numeral of value in circle "Franquero" above and "Impresos" below: "Espana" in a straight line at the top, "Correos" at the bottom, value at sides and numerals in corners. Perforated.

5 mills. de esc., green.	
10 " brown.	

PROVISIONAL ISSUES.

In 1868, stamps of the regular issue were surcharged "Habilitado por lar Nacion." The values are:

12c orange.	
19c pink.	
10c de esc., green.	
20c " lilac.	
5m. de esc., brown.	
25 " blue and rose.	
50 " brown.	
25 " blue.	
50 " violet.	
100 " brown.	
200 " green.	
BLACK SURCHARGE.	
12c yellow.	
19c pink.	
10c de e. green.	
20 " lilac.	
5m. de e. green.	
10 " brown.	
25 " blue and rose.	
50 " brown.	
25 " blue.	
50 " violet.	
100 " brown.	
200 " green.	

Same, surcharged "Habilitado por la Junta Revolucionaria."

1868, 20c de e. lilac.	
" 50c de e. brown.	
Same, surcharged, "H. P. N." in oval	
1868, 12c. yellow.	
" 20c. de e. lilac.	
" 25m. " blue and rose.	
" 50m. " brown.	
" 100m. " brown.	
" 200m. " green.	

Same, surcharged "Habilitado por lar Nacion" in oval.

1868, 25m. de e. rose and blue.	
" 50m. " brown.	

REGULAR ISSUE.

In 1870 the design is changed, again. Allegorical female head, with crown, in lined oval disk, "Comunicaciones" above and value below, on scrolls. Ornamented frame. Perforated. The values are

1m. de e. violet on flesh.	
1m. " buff.	
1m. " purple on pink.	
2m. " brown p.	
2m. " buff p.	
4m. " bistre.	
10m. " rose.	
25m. " violet.	
50m. " blue.	
100m. " red.	
200m. " brown.	
400m. " green.	
1 e. 600m. lilac.	
2 e. blue.	
12c. lake red.	
19c. green.	

1872, numeral of value in transverse oval, royal crown above "Correos Espana" above and below and value at sides;

Unperforated.

1-4 cent. de peseta, x4=1 cent. de peseta, blue, pale blue.

Same design as 1867, 5 and 10m, "Comunicaciones" below and value at sides in cents. de peseta; perforated.

2 cents. de peseta, violet mauve.

5 " green.

1872, design, portrait of King Amadeus on lined oval disk; "Comunicaciones" in curved line above, "Espana" below, numerals of value in lower corners, perforated

1872, 6 cents. de peseta, blue.

" 10 " lilac.

" 12 " mauve.

" 25 " deep brown.

" 40 " orange.

" 50 " green.

1873, 6c. de p, carmine.

" 10 " blue.

" 20 " mauve.

1872, profile of King to right on lined oval disk; "Comunicaciones" in curved line at top, value at bottom, "Esp" in lower angles: Perforated.

1 peseta, lilac. 4 pesetas, brown. 10 pesetas, green.

1873, Same design as same value 1873 issue, mural crown above value. They were printed in fours.

1-4 cent. de peseta, x4=1 cent. de peseta, green, pale green.

(To be continued.)

Warwick as a Place for Curiosities and Minerals.

BY E. H. HASTINGS.

Although a small and unpretentious little country town, "about dead enough to skin," as one man said, so far as business goes, it can make a good showing, yes a better one than most towns of its size and location. Its natural advantages comprise Mt. Grace, a fine mountain 1628 feet high, commanding a fine prospect for the tourist. Pulpit Rock, a picturesque structure; the Rocking Boulder, a huge boulder that is so nicely poised that the touch of a finger will cause it to sway; the Spiritualist's Spring, of noted medicinal quality; an iron mine of the finest quality of metal; Lake Moore, a pretty little sheet of water, the Indian Kettle, a singular kettle-shaped depression about three feet deep and two and one-half in diameter, in the solid rock, where tradition declares that the Indians which used to live here, heated water by throwing in hot stones; fine deposits of the famous Warwick Radiated Tourmaline, Quartz crystals and Epidote.

There are three collections of local prominence. First the Public Museum connected with the Public Library, which was bequeathed to the town by William Howard. This magnificent collection comprises minerals, coins, Confederate bonds, and money, many cases of rare Etymological specimens, gorgeous bugs and butterflies from the tropics, Indian curiosities, shells and numberless rare and interesting relics and curios from many countries. It is worth a day's journey to see it.

The second attraction is the coin collection of Ned. C. Mayo, who has for some years been engaged in the collection of rare and interesting pieces. His collection has many fine specimens though few that are exceedingly rare from a numismatic point of view.

The third point of interest is the museum and collections of Frank A. Witherell. They represent the patient collections of some years and the expenditure of much time and money. Rare and valuable specimens adorn its walls and enrich his cabinet. Chief among these is a collection of between four and five hundred pieces of wood. This is probably the largest and handsomest collection in the state, very likely in the country and the rich lines of foreign woods of rare and costly varieties mingle with the more delicate hues of the American varieties. Fine minerals come next, and last a superb cabinet of coins that fairly rivals Mr. Mayo's and in many specimens exceeds it. Very rare coins abound. Interesting curiosities including a large number of birds' eggs are led off by a whales jaw, exquisite figured with delicate engraving. As Mr. Witherell is a good workman with tools, his collections are put up in fine style. Visitors are welcome.

I think the reader will agree with me that we can lay claim to "some pumpkins," at any rate come and see and get a specimen of something.

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Long before man appeared upon the earth, and soon after the plants and lower orders of life had sunk into the depths to form our coal beds, our limestones and our clays, there appeared a race of animal life of gigantic structure. The early primitive man saw the last of this great race, but could make no record of what he beheld. The race disappeared from the earth long before civilization began and so were it not for the preservation of the bones of these "giants" in the bogs we would have no means of studying them.

We can assign no dates to the early and later periods of geological life. We know these periods by the name of the feature of life that predominated. Hence we call the period in which the gigantic land animals appeared—Cenozoic.

Learned professors all over the world have collected the bones of these creatures, mounted them and studied their form. As a result we have every species named, its size known and the locality over which it roamed, discovered.

But we set out to give a brief sketch of Mastodon Remains and not of fossil animals in general. Mastodon bones (in connection with other bones frequently, but generally alone) are found in marshes, in bogs and sand banks. The best locality is Kentucky. Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and New York, however, have yielded many skeletons. The average size of the Mastodon Americanus was fourteen feet high, twenty-five or twenty-six feet long, (tusks included). The tusks have been found twelve feet in length and weighing six hundred pounds. Teeth weigh from six to ten pounds and exhibit an appearance of many small teeth joined together. Mastodon teeth and those of the Elephas are often confused, one being mistaken for the other. The following may throw some light on the matter. The Elephas tooth has a broad grinding surface and is crossed by shallow furrows. The tooth is not as solid as the Mastodons although frequently larger. The Mastodon tooth is peculiar in structure. The tooth has the form of two rows of cones joined with the tops slightly flattened. The enamel on the Elephas tooth is poor, that of the Mastodon well preserved.

Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, is the greatest Mastodon locality in the United States. Over 100 Mastodons have been dug up there in the swamps. Some of them it is said were over fifteen feet in height. There are extensive salt deposits in Bone Lick and we may account for the presence of so many bones in the swamp in this way:—

The animals were of enormous weight and their movements were necessarily slow. The ground was soft, huge herds of them tramping about made it more so, one became mired and the rest rushed out, trumpeting and bellowing. Perhaps another was knocked down and trodden under foot.

Some years ago Dr. Koch found in southern Missouri a Mastodon skeleton in connection with stone axes, arrow heads and traces of fire. He came to the conclusion that the creature was mired, found and killed. In the northern part of Greene Co., Ohio, a similar find was made by a lady. Seven stone axes, a hammer, upwards of fifty white flint arrow heads and traces of fire were found in and among the legs and ribs of a small Mammoth. The tusks and head were partially destroyed by fire but the body was preserved. Two of the ribs were set up in the form of an arch over their drive-way and a horse and buggy was driven under them without the buggy touching. Several collectors in the county went to see the spot and dug a large hole, finding the remainder of the skeleton. About ten of the teeth were not burned and were well-preserved.

Old Town Run in south-western Ohio, is a famous locality for Mastodon remains. Some parts of skeletons as well as upwards of twenty teeth have been unearthed.

What a blessing it is that these creatures perished before civilization rose! They would have hindered the settling of our country in a great measure. One of them could destroy a whole town, pull up a good-sized tree by the roots or straddle an oak and break it as a strong man would a sapling. Think of a creature weighing many tons rushing through our fair land. He would leave a path of destruction behind him similar to a young cyclone. When we read about these great giants that lived so many thousands of

years ago we can thankfully exclaim with one writer well known to all readers: "Thank the Lord they are all gone."

Fabulous Animals in China.

ADELE M. FIELDS.

Of the many fabulous animals having their habitat in the Mongolian mind, none is more completely domesticated and universally believed in than is the Dragon, represented upon the national flag, giving name to the throne and having numberless images in temples. It is the symbol of power and majesty, the expression of authority and dignity.

The Chinese Neptunes, the Sea Dragon Kings, live in gorgeous palaces in the depths of the sea, where they feed on pearls and opals. There are five of these divinities, the chief being in the centre, and the other four occupying the north, the west, the south and the east. Each is a league in length and so bulky that in shifting its posture it tosses one mountain against another. It has five feet, one of them being in the middle of its belly, and each foot is armed with five sharp claws. It can reach into the heavens and stretch itself into all quarters of the sea. It has a glowing armor of yellow scales, a beard under its long snout, a hairy tail and shaggy legs. Its forehead projects over its blazing eyes, its ears are small and thick, its mouth gaping, its tongue long and its teeth sharp. Fish are boiled by the blast of its breath, and roasted by the fiery exhalations of its body. When it rises to the surface, the whole ocean surges, waterspouts form and typhoons rage. When it flies, wingless, through the air, the winds howl, torrents of rain descend, houses are unroofed, the firmament is filled with a din, and whatever lies along its route is swept away with a roar in the hurricane created by the speed of its passage.

The five Sea-Dragon kings are all immortal. They know each other's thoughts, plans and wishes without intercommunication. Like all the other gods they go once a year to the superior heavens, to make an annual report to the Supreme Ruler; but they go in the third month, at which time none of the other gods dare appear, and their stay is but brief. They generally remain in the depths of the ocean, where their courts are filled with their progeny, their dependants and their attendants, and where the gods sometimes visit them. Their palaces of divers-colored transparent stones, with crystal doors are said to have been seen in the early morning by persons gazing into the deep waters. A fine Chinese scholar of my acquaintance, a graduate, gravely informed me he had seen a dragon moving through the heavens in a storm and that he had a distinct though distant view of its tail! To see one indicates good luck, and they are seldom seen by any but the righteous. It is said that fish and serpents that live to a vast age are finally transformed into dragons.

Another animal frequently represented in bas-relief on the walls of temples and supposed to appear only when a sage is born, is the Chinese unicorn. It has a body like a deer, with the head and tail of a lion. It has a horn on its forehead and is often pictured with the eight precious writing-instruments under its feet. One appeared in the time of Confucius and the boors who saw it killed it, saying, "It is neither tiger, ox nor pig." Confucius saw its dead body and bemoaned its being so uncommon that no one had recognized it.

The well-known Phoenix lives among mountains and lays cubical eggs. It is several feet high and has a long neck, long legs and a long plummy tail. It has resplendent, variegated plumage, slim wings, a sharp tongue and gleaming eyes. It gazes at the sun and moon, facing east by day and west by night. Its voice is flute-like and when it calls tigers flee away and all birds assemble around it to do obeisance. Its nest has never been found, though its young have been seen. It only appears when a wise sovereign is about to be born. It affiliates with the dragon and dragons are sometimes hatched from its eggs.—[Swiss Cross.

C. O. D. by Mail.

HENRY CARRY BAIRD.

Germany, Austria, France and Belgium have had for years a system of collecting bills by mail, through the postal authorities. In all these countries, I believe, packages can be sent C. O. D., by mail. This is certainly the case in Austria, for in 1882 I availed myself of it and found it worked most admirably. A day or two after leaving Vienna, I sent an order for some articles of merchandise to that city, to be delivered to me at Innsbruck on my arrival; and on reaching there I found that the postman had been there with them, and he being informed of my arrival brought them the next morning; and I paid him for the goods, the postage and the cost of returning the money to the sender. Greatly impressed by the manner

in which this service was performed, I wrote a letter to our then Postmaster-General, Howe, advocating it for the United States. He never, so far as I am aware, took any action in the matter. Since then I have repeatedly urged it upon a member of Congress, a very active member of the Post Office Committee. He has been very favorably impressed by it, but has never urged it upon Congress. Of course the Express Companies would make a very determined fight against any such innovation on one of their privileges; but this is a reform which is bound to come, and when once the people take hold of the idea, the express companies will be powerless to prevent it.

In this connection it is worthy of note that all, or nearly all of the reforms in our postal service have been borrowed from Europe, and have not originated in the United States from the postage stamp pretty much all the way down, without a break, to the postal note. But Europe is still in advance of us, and it seems extremely difficult to catch up with it. The C. O. D. postal idea, like so many other good postal reforms already borrowed, is sure to be adopted by us, and the sooner the better.—[Scientific American.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are inserted one issue for 5 cents or 3 issues or 10 cents. Over 24 words and less than 48, 10 cents for one issue or 3 issues for 20 cents. This column is open to the public at these rates, whether they are subscribers or not.

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Arrow points, fossil ferns, curiosity papers, mounted birds, match, medicine and document stamps wanted; send lists. O. D. Walbridge, Marselles, Ill.

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100 different stamps for ten philatelic papers or old coins; fine globe (unbroken) for 500 mixed foreign stamps. Confederate bills to exchange. C. O. Henbest, Marshall, Ill.

Coins, books, eggs and skates; have eggs of 395, 413, 430, 500, 518 and 603 to exchange for sea shells, stone implements and curiosities. F. M. Kinnel, 243 Fourth Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

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Wanted! 1st class Bird's eggs of all kinds; I can offer 500 varieties in exchange; correspondence solicited. T. Vernon Wilson, Austin, Ill.

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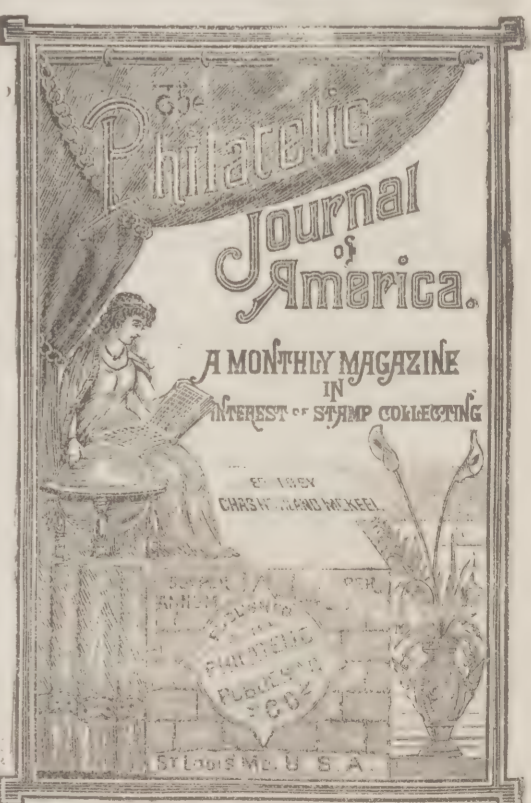
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The Stamps of Spain.

BY J. WHITTEMORE HALSEY.

(Concluded.)

1873, Figure of Liberty, seated, facing to the left with arms resting on shield bearing the Spanish Arms; on scroll above, "Comunicaciones," value in a straight line below. "Espana" on label at the sides. Perforated. The values are;

2c. de peseta, orange.

5 " rose.

10 " green.

20 " black.

25 " brown.

40 " mauve.

50 " blue.

1 peseta, mauve.

4 " red brown.

10 " brown violet.

1874, Figure of Justice in white circular disk, inscribed "Comunicaciones," value and date, "Espana" in curved line below, with numeral of value of each end. Perforated. The values are:

2c. de peseta, orange, yellow.

5 " violet.

10 " blue.

20 " dull green.

25 " brown.

40 " mauve.

50 " yellow.

1 peseta, mauve.

4 " carmine.

10 " black.

1874, Arms of Spain in wreath, crown above, "Comunicaciones" at the top and value below, in straight lines, lined ground.

10 cents. peseta, brown, pale-brown, perforated.

10 cents. peseta, brown, unperforated.

The stamps of the issue of 1875 bear the profile of King Alphonso to right, on lined ground on oval disk. In a straight line at the top of the stamp, "Comunicaciones" and value below, also in a straight line. Lion and castle in alternate corners fancy design on back and number printed in blue, in the centre. The values are:

2c. de peseta, brown.

5 " lilac.

10 " blue.

20 " orange.

25 " rose.

40 " brown.

50 " mauve.

1 peseta, black.

4 " green.

10 " ultramarine.

The 1876 issue bears the portrait of King Alphonso on lined oval disk, "Comunicaciones" above and value below, both in straight lines; numerals of value in lower corners. Watermark, a castle. Values:

5 c. de peseta, pale brown.

10 " blue.

20 " sea green.

25 " brown.

40 " slate brown.

50 " green.

1 peseta, blue.

4 " magenta.

10 " vermilion.

1877, same design as same value 1872, but it has been re-engraved. Value, 1-4 cent. de peseta, x4=1 cent. de peseta, green, dark green.

The issue of 1878 bears the profile of the King to right, on lined oval disk, "Comunicaciones" above and value below. The name of the engraver, "Julia" is on the bust. The values are:

2 c. de peseta, lilac.

5 " yellow.

10 " brown.

20 " black.

25 " citron.

40 " brown.

50 " green.

1 peseta, mauve.

4 " violet.

10 " blue.

The issue of 1879 bears the profile of the King facing to the left, on lined oval disk, "Correos Y Telegos" above and value below. The values are:

2 centimos, slate.

5 " pale green.

10 " carmine.

20 " brown.

25 " blue.

40 " brown.

50 " orange.

1 peseta, carmine.

4 " grey.

The issue of 1882 bears the profile of the King to left on lined oval disk, "Correos Y Telegos" in semi-circle above, value below. The values are:

15 centimos, salmon.

30 " mauve.

75 " lilac.

WAR STAMPS.

These stamps were first issued in 1874 and bear the Arms of Spain and crown, on lined disk in oval frame, inscribed on the upper half, "Impuesto de Guerra" and the value on the lower half. Key pattern in angles lined ground. The values are:

5 cent. peseta, black, unperforated.

5 " perforated.

10 cent. peseta, blue, "

Two values were issued in 1875, bearing crowned Arms of Spain on lined oval disk, "Impeto de Guerra" on scroll above, "cent" in curved line below, "Espana" on bands at each side, numerals of value in lower corners. Values:

5 cent. green, unperforated.

10 " violet, "

These stamps were also issued perforated.

On the 1876 issue appears the profile of the King to the left, on lined disk, in oval frame; "Impuesto de Guerra" above and value below. Ornaments in the angles. Perforated. Following are the values:

5 cent. peseta, green.

10 " blue.

25 " grey.

1 peseta, lilac.

5 " rose.

1877, profile of King to left on lined oval disk, "Impeto de Guerra" above and value below, in straight lines. Ornamented angles on lined ground.

15 centimos, claret, unperforated.

15 " perforated.

50 " yellow, "

In 1879 the following values were issued, of similar design to the 1877 issue.

5 centimos, blue.

10 " carmine.

15 " violet.

25 " brown.

50 " olive.

1 peseta, bistre.

5 " grey.

STAMPS OF THE CARLIST INSURRECTION.

1873, profile of Don Carlos to left in oval frame, "Franquero" in a curved line above and "Espana" at the bottom. Value in lower corners. Value,

1 real, blue.

There is a variety of this stamp with accent over the letter N.

1874, Laureated profile of Don Carlos to right, on solid circular disk, "Espana" on ribbon above, "Franquero" in straight line at the bottom, numerals of value in lower corners. Value, 1 real lilac. These two stamps were used in Biscay and Navarre, only. This year a stamp was issued which was evidently intended for use only in Catalonia. It bears a profile of Don Carlos to right on lined ground, "Dios Patria Rey" on curved band above, "Correos 16 ms. vn." below, "Año de 1874" on the left and "Cataluna" on the right.

16 maravedes vellon, rose.

A stamp was also issued this year for use in Valencia. It bears the profile of Don Carlos to right, on lined oval disk, "Espana Valencia" above, "Correos" and value below.

1-2 real, rose, vermilion, claret.

1875, laureated profile of Don Carlos to right, on solid circular disk, "Dios Patria Rey" above, "Espana" and value below, in straight lines.

50 cents, green, 1 real, brown.

RETURN LETTER STAMPS.

In 1873, a return letter stamp was issued circular disk bearing crowned Arms of Spain and the words around the outer edge of disk, "Correos Devolucion de Correspondenci Sobrante." Color, blue.

REVENUES USED FOR POSTAGE.

The following values of revenue stamps were used for postage, Profile of King to right, on lined oval disk, "Timbre Movil" and date in a semi circle above, value below. Lion and castle in alternate corners. Lined ground.

1882, 10 c. flesh.

1882, 10 c. blue.

1884, 10 c. lilac.

1885, 10 c. green.

1885, 20 c. lilac.

1886, 10 c. blue.

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

1854, bears the crowned Arms of Spain, in square disk, "Correos 1851" above, weight below, in straight lines.

1-2 onza, yellow.

1 " rose.

4 " green.

1 libra, blue.

1855, crowned Arms of Spain in oval, "Correo Oficial" above, weight below. The values and colors are the same as the issue of 1854.

In 1875 a stamp was issued bearing a sealed letter on lined oval disk, surrounded by "Cartilla Postal de Espana." Lined background. No value. Color, blue.

Rabbits and Squirrels.

BY L. O. PINDAR.

It is now time to hunt these little animals, and it is always time to watch them particularly the gay antics of the latter, and I will try to bring my notes on them together so as to form a short article. The rabbit is very common here, in Western Kentucky, and in the fall and winter, with a good dog, almost any number of them can be found. They are most common in blackberry thickets and along hedges, and sometimes in a corn-field. In fact, it is much easier to find one in a corn field than to shoot one, for a "cotton-tail" generally manages to get a

clump of corn stalks between himself and the muzzle of your gun. From April to the last of May, the female makes a little hollow in the ground, usually on the south side of a hill in which she produces from three to five young. The male rabbits are said to sometimes destroy the young. I know of no such cases in actual experience. Young rabbits and squirrels make excellent pets if caught when young, sometimes becoming so tame they may be allowed to run all over the house and yard. And now for the Red Squirrel, or as he is generally called, the Fox squirrel. It is the commonest species we have, next to it comes the Ground squirrel, Chipmunk or Wook-chuck.

Then comes the Gray squirrel and rarest of all, the flying squirrel. All of these make nice pets although the Red is treacherous and generally vicious. The Chipmunk is hard to tame but it can be done. One day in August a boy and I found a Flying squirrel in a small tree and he was positive it was a young squirrel and climbed up after it. He got up to it and began to laugh at me for saying it was not a young squirrel. I said "all right, catch it." He got his hand right over it when—Never will I forget the look of bewildered astonishment on his face when the squirrel sailed away and then it was my turn to laugh. In a future number I will give the history of two pet squirrels I once owned, one of which was a Gray and the other a Chipmunk.

The Board of Officers of the American Philatelic Association have made the following appointments: Exchange Director, R. Wuesthoff; 1st, Assistant Purchasing Agent, H. O. Harris; 2nd, do., Charles Muecke; Literary Board, R. C. H. Brock, W. A. MacCalla, W. C. Stone.

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carats, Ceylon, 90c., worth \$3.

W. S. BEEKMAN,

West Medford, Mass.

A Visit to a New Hampshire Whetstone Quarry.

BY M. V. B. KNOX.

On a cool bright morning in September
a couple of us rode out from East Hav-
erhill four miles to Pike's Quarry. We
found that a layer of the stone from
which they get the whetstones, extends
nearly north and south for several miles
and this has been marked here and there
at several places.

The stone is a fine-grained mica schist,
compactly crystalline, the strike being
nearly north and south, the dip at the
main quarry west, at an angle of about
10°. At this place in the edge of Pier-
mont, overlooking the Connecticut Val-
ley, they have made extensive quarryings
though just now they are not at work as
a sufficient quantity for some time was
lifted in the spring. The principal quar-
ry is about twenty rods long, sixty feet
wide and at the deepest place seventy-five
feet or more. This hole is now partly
filled with pure, sparkling water. The
rock is easily gotten out, since the grain
makes it easy to split off from the edges
and sides of the quarry, great flakes six
inches thick, six or ten feet across were
lying about the ground waiting to be cut
into forms prepared for the grinders.
This is mostly done near the quarry so as
to save carting useless weight to the mills
four miles away.

Not all the rock is good for use. Seams
and great "pockets" of dark porphyry
were shot up through the laminated mica
schist here and there, the rock in close
proximity to those seams being heat-
cracked to fineness, showing that the por-
phyry was pressed up from below in a
heated, molten condition. Great nodules
of glittering quartz were also scattered
through the mica schist, no doubt the
product of heat from below, the same as
the porphyry. In the general stratum
which extends those miles, as mentioned
already, we could see great dykes of
gneiss. The whole uplift gave clear proof
of having been an upheaval under great
heat forces. The whetstone ledges showed
that disturbances took place before the
rock was as crystalline as now, since
faults and crushed and banded places
could be seen. The crystallization about
the masses of porphyry and quartz was
finer than the main part of the ledge, mak-
ing a glassy surface which is sometimes
called "Satin rock." Some of the quartz
had crystallized so slowly as to be almost
as transparent as the six-sided crystals.

A little difference in the structure of
the rock makes the difference between a
good grit and a worthless one. Not long
ago the foreman at the quarry reported a
"lead" which promised good "grain" and
easy working. Masses were gotten out
but as soon as some reached the mills the
grinders reported the grit lacking, so the
worthless stone was all abandoned. Dif-
ferent grades of whetstones are made
from rock of close contiguity. Those
used to it can at once detect by the looks
and feeling the character of the product.
Sometimes they have found "pins" or lit-
tle crystals of some material which spoils
the stone. Masses lying beside the quar-
ry were full of small crystals of iron pyrites
and consequently useless.

Over the surface of the ledges, when
the overlying earth had been removed,
were very fine glacial markings. These
usually extended like most in New Eng-
land, north and south. In one place two
distinct sets indicated quite different di-
rections of the glacier, the wearing of the
latter one not having wholly obliterated
the traces of the earlier one. Far south-
ward, a mile or more, was a sharp, broken
hill which with the aid of a glass showed
evidence of being of the same stratum.
Later on we went to Pike's Mills where
the whetstones are ground down, marked,
sorted and sent all over the world. They
had just got an order for several carloads
from Europe.

A Common Mineral.

BY E. F. NEWCOMER.

Quartz is the most abundant of all min-
erals, existing as a constituent of many
rocks, as the granitic, the micaceous and
silicious slates, composing of itself the
rock known as quartzite or quartz rock,
and some of the sandstones, pure sand,
forming the chief portions of most min-
eral veins and found interspersed in crys-
tals and crystalline fragments throughout
many rocks and especially in their fissures
and cavities.

In composition it is silica and when un-
contaminated with any foreign intermix-
ture it appears in clear transparent crys-
tals like glass or ice. The presence of a
little oxide of manganese gives these a
violet tinge and they are then known as
amethyst. Other impurities which vari-
ously affect the appearance and properties
of quartz even in the small quantities in
which they enter into its composition,
are oxides of iron, aluminum, nickel and
other metals. Through all its varieties

quartz is distinguished by the same chem-
ical properties and degrees of hardness.
Its lustre is vitreous, its colors various
according to the impurities present and
its fracture conchoidal. Its specific grav-
ity is 2.5 to 2.8.

Milk-white varieties often give a phos-
phorescent light when rubbed in the dark.
The common form of the crystal is a hex-
agonal prism, terminated by hexagonal
pyramids. The crystals occur in groups
of great beauty and of all sizes up to sin-
gle crystals of several hundred pounds
weight. In the museum of the Universi-
ty of Naples is a group weighing nearly
half a ton. A crystal in the Museum of
Natural History in Paris is 3 feet in di-
ameter and the same in length and weighs
800 pounds. In Milan is a crystal 3 1/4
feet long and 5 1/2 in circumference and
estimated to weigh 1,000 pounds.

Occasionally large quantities of crys-
tals are collected in cavities in the rocks
and in caves, loose and incrusting the
walls. Such a collection found at Zinken
more than a century ago, produced 100-
000 pounds of rock crystal, which at that
period, when the price was more highly
valued than now, brought \$500,000. In
the United States some rich deposits
have been found. In the Ehenvine lead
mine, Ulster Co., New York, in the Moose
Mountain, New Hampshire and at Water-
bury, Vermont.

Little Falls on the Mohawk in New
York is a famous locality for the purest
transparent crystals, which are sometimes
five inches in length and contain drops of
water. The agate, amethyst, carnelian,
cat's eye, chalcodony, nut, geode and jas-
per are all varieties of the quartz. From
Madagascar large clear masses are re-
ceived, which sell from one dollar to ten
dollars a pound. When cut and set by
the jewelers the stone is commonly sold
as white topaz and sometimes as Califor-
nia Diamonds. Pure quartz is largely
employed in the manufacture of glass and
is commonly obtained for this purpose in
the form of sand.

"Clear crystalline quartz, called rock
crystal was in former times esteemed for
ornamental objects. It was cut into vas-
es, cups, etc., many of which are still pre-
served as curiosities. In the museum of
the Louvre are a great number of them,
some belonging to the times of the ancient
Greeks and Romans, but more generally,
of the period of the middle ages.

A Short Talk About the Designs of Some American Stamps.

BY THOMAS COKE WATKINS.

It is not my intention in penning these
few lines, to attempt a complete descrip-
tion of the postage stamps of America,
but merely to string together a few notes
in connection with the designs of our
stamps. Anyone who has casually glanced
over a collection of foreign stamps
must have noticed the variety of emblems
employed by the governments of North
and South America, but perhaps they
never considered for a moment that many
of them convey a special adaptation to the
countries they represent. Thus, the is-
sue of Newfoundland is a striking illus-
tration of the subject of these remarks.
The fishing business—the general com-
merce of the island—is faithfully por-
trayed by the codfish on the two and the
schooner on the thirteen cent stamps,
while the seal, which abounds so plenti-
fully is found on the five cent specimens.
A greater portion of the British Colonies
have adopted the profile of Victoria, and
in some instances the beauty of the en-
graving is specially noticeable, such as
Nova Scotia, St. Lucia, Canada etc. The
latter however, varied the design by in-
troducing the beaver on the three pence
and five cent stamps, and the head of
Cartier—the great explorer of this coun-
try—on the ten pence and seventeen cent
specimens. New Brunswick has also a
striking variation in connection with her
postal labels. The one cent bears the
picture of a locomotive, the twelve and a
half cent stamp, an ocean steamship in
full motion and the effigy of the Prince of
Wales is finely portrayed on the seventeen
cent specimens, and here let us not fail to
notice the remarkable five cent proof—as
some term it—which bears the portrait of
the ex-Postmaster General, Mr. Connell.
The United States employ the heads of
some of her Presidents, and a variety of
designs too well known to be spoken of
here. The stamps of Central America
have adopted, as a general theme, a view
of the mountains which string in long
chains all through most of these local-
ities, Salvador and Nicaragua being fine
specimens of this type. In addition to
this landscape, a few, such as Costa Rica
and Guatemala have added a sea view,
with ships plying here and there. Most
of the South American issues employ the
arms of the country to which they belong.
With a few exceptions this is the general
rule. Chili has made use of the profile of
Columbus, which we think is rather far

fetched. Probably they borrow the idea
from the "Mother Country." Peru, like
Newfoundland, prefers to symbolize her
commerce and has therefore selected
views in which the Llamas are the prin-
cipal attraction. The issue for the Argen-
tine Republic is undoubtedly the finest
specimen set of any of the South Ameri-
can stamps. The portraits of Rivadavia,
Belgrand and San Martino are the subject
of the five, ten and fifteen centavos spec-
imens. With these few notes I must
close my remarks, but before doing so, I
must state that most of the above men-
tioned stamps are the execution of the
American Bank Note Company, of New
York. De La Rue & Co., and others may
excel in the selection of some of the most
exquisite hues and colors, but none can
imitate the principal features, the engrav-
ing and designs of the American Bank
Note Company. It stands champion in
this branch of Arts to the exclusion of all
its competitors.

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issue or 3 issues for 20 cents. This column
is open to the public at these rates, whether they are
subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a
brass new Gem stamp album containing space for
600 stamps. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake
Village, N. H.

Arrow points, fossil ferns, curiosity papers,
mounted birds; match, medicine and document
stamps wanted; send lists. O. D. Wainwright,
Marseilles, Ill. *17

Coins, books, eggs and skates; have eggs of 395,
410, 400, 404, 410 and 405 to exchange for Sea Shells,
stone implements and curiosities. F. M. Kinnig, 240
Fourth Ave., N. Y., Minneapolis, Minn. *22

Wanted! Last class Bird's eggs of all kinds; I can
offer you varieties in exchange; correspondence
solicited. T. Vernon Wilson, Austin, Ill. *21

Document, match and medicine stamps to ex-
change for others; unused foreign stamps for
rare stamps. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass. *21

Make me an offer for 1000 U. S. postage stamps,
also coins, eggs and stamps to exchange for the
same rank sterling, Catalogue, New York.

Will exchange set of draughting instruments,
German silver, in perfect order, originally costing
\$6.00; civil engineer's boxwood rule, cost \$1.00;
horn semicircle, India ink, improved ink disk,
whetstone for compasses 40 and 50° triangles and
sponge cup for air blips (U. S. preferred) not in my
other plates. Also coins for stamps. Send lists. H.
Leonhard, 71 1/2 W 4th St., New York City. *19

50 numbers Scientific American for type, revolver,
bird's egg, bracket saw, for lamp, press or type;
4 cent silver piece, American, make offers. Fred D.
Snyder, Barre Centre, N. Y.

Will give a fine piece of Indian Pottery for every
bird's egg sent me of nos 10, 11, 13, 41, 93, 135, 1490,
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613, 641, 675, 680, 686, 687, 689, 690, 692, 742, 743,
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tre, N. Y. Box 48.

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15 1/2 inches high, 14 velvet lined drawers having two
removable trays each, in perfect condition, to ex-
change for good coins, paper money or bronze med-
als; send description with offer. C. J. Vercoeur,
80 East Superior St., Chicago, Ill. *19

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other places. I will give good value in exchange for
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Ill. *19

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sheet of rare foreign or U. S. and I will do the same.
A. W. Dunning, San Fernando, Cal. *19

Scarce postmarks all west of Pennsylvania to ex-
change for old stamped envelopes, war envelopes
with flags or portraits on, or for U. S. stamps. Jas.
H. Morrison, Arlington Hotel, Erie, Pa. *19

Books upon Natural History for latest edition
International Stamp Album or New England Bird
Life as revised by Coues. Geo. H. Shetton, Sey-
mour, Conn.

I will exchange an 8 jointed telescope, valued at
\$20 for best offer of coins. Send lists. F. V. Hum-
phrey, Pullman, Ill.

A pair of Peck & Snyder's American Club, ice
skates, for U. S. cents and half cents or postage,
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12 different unused foreign and U. S. stamps for
either a V nickel without cents, a half cent or two
large cents. W. A. Kowley, 341 37th St., Chicago, Ill.

Colonial coppers of Massachusetts, New York,
etc., and American half cents for very good to fine
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York. *22

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send lists and publishers, papers. Best of referen-
ces. Charles Glass, Beaman, Grundy Co., Iowa.
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of England, Sir Henry Holland and Fitz John Porter
for stamps or offers in currency or old books.
D. S. Farrington, Wrentham, Mass. Box 4. *19

50 stamps for every stamp paper sent me. H. C.
Beardsley, 422 North 7th St., St. Joseph, Mo.

Will give 40 foreign for every 100 U. S. stamps
sent me, any kind. Stamps for stamps. Send sheet.
W. S. Bucken, 170 Dean St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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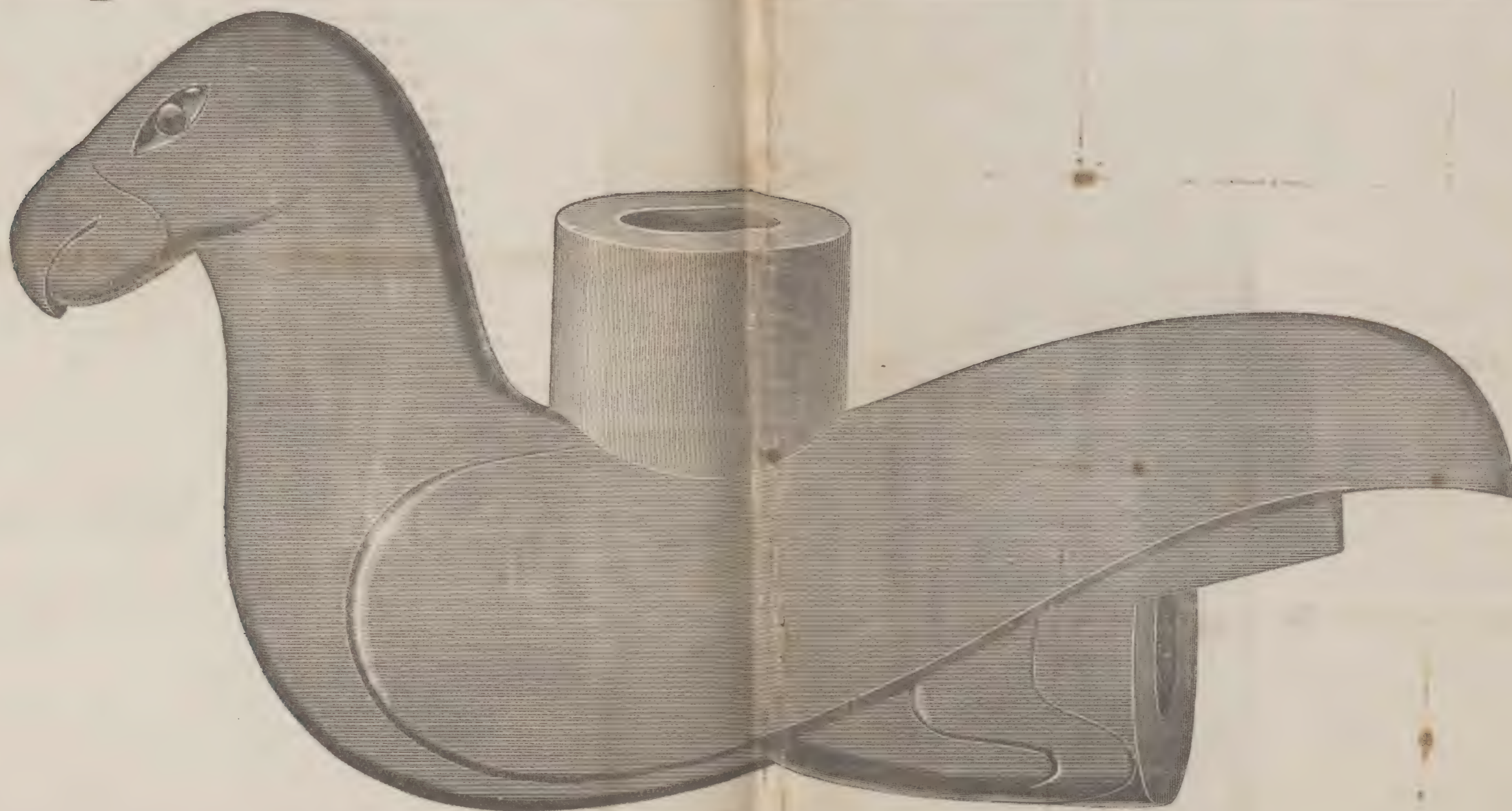
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star fish, sea urchin and shark's egg and my 14
page price list. F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y.

The Curiosity World.

VOL. II. NO. 7.

LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., DECEMBER 1, 1887.

WHOLE NO. 19.



MOUND PIPE FROM LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE. 1851.

MOUND BUILDER PIPES.

BY WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.

There have been found from time to time large pipes cut from solid rock and showing peculiarity of design as well as excellence of workmanship. These pipes are found in mounds, rarely on the surface. They are known as Mound Builder Pipes to distinguish them from the smaller and more numerous types of our Indian Pipes. There is always a history connected with the Mound Builder Pipes that adds great interest to the specimen. In many (and in most) cases the exact history of the pipe cannot be determined and we have to guess or "theorize." Mound pipes were first brought into prominence by Squire and Davis, two noted archaeologists. These men investigated the forts and many of the mounds and Indian trails throughout the central states. (Ohio most especially) making complete surveys and in many mounds extensive excavations. They did a vast amount of work in Ross County, Ohio, and at Chillicothe and Circleville. One mound they opened (on the bank of the Scioto at Chillicothe) contained two hundred of the famous Mound Pipes, some of which were quite large and none of them were broken. This valuable discovery was little noted at the time and most of the pipes were sold to the English Authorities at London, England. From London the pipes were transferred to the British Museum where they now lie on exhibition. These two hundred pipes were found in one mound, remember. The pipes represent all the types ever heard of or seen by collectors. Human figures, fish, birds, animals, reptiles and plain bowl pipes. The value at the present day of such a collection could not be far from \$4,000.00.

Since that time finds of large and magnificent pipes have occasionally been made but no find has ever been made that equaled the one of Squire and Davis. The Smithsonian Inst., Peabody, New York Historical Society, and Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society all possess numbers of Mound pipes rich in images of men and animals. The Smithsonian Inst. collection is, of course, the largest of all, and contains many types that can never be duplicated. They (Smithsonian Inst.) have a set of pipes from Tenn., that are marvelous for beauty and finish and hardness of material. One of these pipes represents a huge frog, the other a crane or snipe. The size of the former is about 7x9 inches and the latter 6x5 1-2. They have a long duck pipe of green stone from the Tenn. river (length over 14 inches, weight probably 7 or 8 lbs.) that is the largest pipe in their collection. It may not be the finest, but it certainly takes the premium for size.

Prof. Putnam in his exploration in Tenn. unearthed some remarkable figure pipes, some of which equal in workmanship, if not in size, those in the National Museum.

There is a gentleman living near Pittsburg, Pa. (Mr. Norman Spang) who has a very large and interesting collection of pipes. He has made Mound Pipes a specialty and he has over two hundred, some of which are of great size and value. Granite, Greenstone, Porphyry, Soapstone and Sandstone are used in making these, and occasionally one sees a pipe of odd material such as quartz or slate. A quartz pipe is one of the most beautiful relics known, but their scarcity makes them of great value. There are perhaps one or two pipes in quartz in this collection named. Mr. Spang has spared neither time nor expense to make his collection complete, and as a result his private cabinet is far ahead of any other private (and many society collections) cabinet in the country. A certain peculiar bird pipe of his, from Tenn., the writer wishes to call attention to. This pipe has besides the head, neck and body of a bird, wings. The wings are well executed and stand out a trifle over half way from the sides. The whole thing is admirably done and in a good state of preservation. In a collection in Lebanon, Ohio, there is a single pipe which is the finest one in the state of Ohio (excepting the writer's Tenn. Duck Pipe) in size and finish. This pipe is cut from feldspar, is six inches high and as large as a quart cup. It represents a frog in a sitting posture, hind legs doubled under the body, the fore legs placed just in front. The legs are very well proportioned, the muscles stand out plainly, and the feet are well carved. The bowl is in the back, not quite mid-way and the entrance or stem hole in the chest in front. The weight of this piece is four pounds.

The cut at the head of this article represents a grand specimen of Mound Pipes in the writer's collection, and is the best pipe he owns. This pipe was taken from a small mound at the foot of Lookout Mountain, Tenn., by an old slave, some thirty six years ago. It was used as a "door prop" for a number of years by the finder, until a Mr. Hainer of Lebanon happened to be in that neighborhood and bought the relic for a mere trifle. It was considerably scratched by rough usage, but was not broken.

The writer was unable to learn whether anything else of value was found in the mound with the pipe. He believes, however, that a small skeleton was unearthed, but thinks no accompanying implements. After the pipe was found it remained in the possession of Mr. Hainer some years and was finally sold to a collector in Columbus, Ohio. In 1886, the collection of the Columbus party was bought by one Mercer, a well known relic dealer of Cincinnati, and the pipe was owned by Mercer nearly a year when the writer purchased the same. The cut is the exact size of the pipe and is a good representation. The carving on the pipe is very fine, especially the work about

the head. The feet are carved under the body as doubled up and are webbed. Therefore I call it a Duck Pipe supposing that it represented a duck. The color of the pipe is dark blue, the material Tennessee granite with a good amount of feldspar. The weight is about three pounds. It is hardly to be supposed that this pipe was smoked. We suppose it was used as a "ceremonial stone" and may possibly have remained in the center of the Medicine Mound Lodge where it was looked upon as an object of reverence. Possibly the chiefs and medicine men held councils in the presence of this pipe, seated around it in a circle; possibly the pipe was filled with red willow bark and smoked through a long stem, the pipe not being raised from the ground. We might class all these large pipes as "ceremonials." But we do not know whether we are right or not, it is all (in a measure) guess work. Let us as nearly as possible set forth our theory supporting it by conclusions drawn from observations, and note the result:—If large Mound Pipes were not made to be smoked why do they all have bowls and stem holes? If they were made for ceremony simply, why do we not find them as we do effigy stones, perfect, with no bowls or stem holes?

To the first question we might reply:—We do not suppose the large pipes were smoked by common warriors, nor were they carried on marches, or used in leisure moments. Their place was in the Medicine Lodge, and from there they never came forth except on state occasions. We find them in mounds, buried with great care, in company with many valuable relics and with the bones of distinguished individuals. This would contradict a common origin or a common use. Again, their numbers are limited, they are not found as are the smaller pipes, and are seldom, if ever, found with the small ones.

To the second question we would reply: That we do find carved representations of birds and animals in stone, with unmistakable evidence of the use of these "representations" as pipes. We can assign no age to these pipes. Some may date back two thousand years. The writer well remembers a small mound at the celebrated Fort Ancient, Warren Co., Ohio. (This "fort" is an earthen wall around the summit of a high hill overlooking the Miami River. The embankment is over five miles long, twenty feet high and is the largest ancient work in the United States.) upon which were growing two oak trees, at least two hundred years old. In this mound were found many decayed human bones and a large plain pipe cut from steatite. This pipe was massive and showed evidence of decay; the writer showed it to a prominent geologist who examined the stone quite attentively. This gentleman said it must be of great age, perhaps one thousand years old, for no steatite would

rot in the ground unless it had been buried for many centuries. This fact of the great antiquity of the pipe would indicate the Indian to be well skilled in stone working and polishing, as early as 900 or 1000 years B. C. How long before this date it was in the Polished Stone Age we do not know. All large pipes have been assigned a great antiquity, and some collectors and scientists think two thousand years would hardly cover the history of some of the pieces found in mounds.

Many pipes are found in certain localities (the smaller pipes) having the same general characteristics. For instance, pipes with a small stem hole and large oval bowl will abound and no figure pipes occur. Or there may be fox head pipes or several frog pipes in a mound or in fields in the locality. This would seem to indicate the location of a tribe having a peculiar totem;—The fox, or the frog, or the beaver. Perhaps the plain unornamented pipe was the characteristic feature with them. And so by studying the peculiarities of the pipes we would come to learn that each Indian tribe was as distinct as are our nations of the present day. That the manner of living, speaking and working (as well as the implements and articles made) varied with each peculiar sect.

The Indian was a most remarkable being although a savage; we see more in him to admire and wonder at than we do in any of the aborigines of foreign countries. We admire his bravery, and determined and long existing struggle for existence against overwhelming odds, yet we despise his oft shown treachery and deceit. We thank him for what he has left us—the tobacco plant, the potato, the squash, the pipe, the pepper; yet we despise him for what he has taken from us. When we look at one of his peculiar pipes taken from one of his graves and conjecture upon it, we cannot help but think of the wonderful history of makers of it. And we feel sorry and sympathetic too. Here was a race of men, but a mere handful, reared in the forest, and with no weapons to speak of, yet they withstood the oncoming wave of civilization and resisted progress until their last warrior fell. They fought nobly, bravely; they bled and even died, but the cause was lost. How often does this come true, the strong press down the weak, the rich trample upon the poor, and still justice does not interfere! But what shall the reckoning be in the Hereafter?

The Undine Stamp Company of Philadelphia, have sold out their stock of philatelic goods.

The Curiosity World has been changed to a bi-monthly.—[Charleston Philatelist. Well, hardly.]

Our exchange department is crowded out this issue, as are also several articles on Philately, Numismatics and Oology. They will appear in our next issue, however.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

We mail of this issue, in single wrappers, 10,000 copies, and many papers will fall into the hands of persons who have never seen, and very likely never heard of our paper before. Our old subscribers who have not renewed their subscriptions to the present volume, will also receive a copy of this issue, together with those on our sample copy books. This paper will reach Autograph collectors, Philatelists, Numismatists, Antiquarians, Ornithologists and Oologists, Mineralogists, etc., and we hope all classes of collectors will find something therein to interest them.

The CURIOSITY WORLD is the only semi-monthly of its class, published in the whole world; and we propose to have it circulated over the whole world, if it is a possible thing, and we are inclined to think it is. We propose to triple our subscription list in the next 60 days, and this is how we will do it.

We will send the CURIOSITY WORLD, to Jan. 1st, 1889,—25 numbers—to any address in the United States, Canada, or any country in the Postal Union for only twenty-five cents. This is simply giving the papers to those in foreign countries—as we have to put a one cent stamp on every paper sent outside of the United States and Canada,—and furnishing them at cost to those in our own country. We had rather have 5,000 subscribers at 25 cents per year, than 2500 at 50 cents per year. Why? Because we believe that four out of every five who take the paper will renew next year, at the regular price, and we can get twice as much for advertising as we do at present. Again, collectors of one or more classes are liable to become interested in others, and thus create a larger demand for our goods, which of course would increase our trade, and make the trade of other dealers better, and they would advertise with us more extensively. All we ask is that every one who receives a copy of this number will read it carefully, and if they think twenty-five numbers will be worth 25 cents, we shall be pleased to receive their subscription. If they think it is not worth that amount, we will not object to its being consigned to the waste basket. Present subscribers who wish to take advantage of this offer, can have 25 numbers added to the time their present subscription expires. This is the most liberal offer ever made by any publisher, and all should take advantage of it.

The Charleston Philatelist has just made its appearance. It consists of four pages and is published every three months by Gustav J. Luhn, Jr., Charleston, S. C.

Mr. J. G. Bingham of McGrawville, N. Y., recently sold a file of "The Western Star," Stockbridge, Mass., 1791 to 1799, consisting of 384 copies, to Mr. Adolph Sutro of San Francisco, Cal., for \$78.25. This is one of the largest sales of old papers that has taken place, late years.

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Published on the 1st, and 15th., of each month.

H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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These are among the rarest of stone relics. They are of all sizes and shapes. Those that are not quite perfect are sold at from \$1.50 to \$5.00. Fine perfect ones from \$5.00 to \$25.00 each. They are extremely rare and hard to obtain.

ORNAMENTS.

These are taken from the Mounds in the West and are usually made of a variety of slate, making a very pretty specimen. Perfect ones, \$1.25 to \$2.50 each.

Besides the above specimens, I have others, too numerous to mention. Advanced collectors will do well to correspond with me. As I devote my entire time to my relic business, I am enabled to fill orders with dispatch. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

Aquila chrysaetos (Linn.)

BY OLIVER DAVIE.

The Golden Eagle is a constant resident throughout the mountainous portions of North America. It also inhabits the northern parts of the Old World. This species may be recognized by the tarsus being wholly feathered to the toes. But if a young Nimrod shoots a Golden Eagle he will perhaps never be able to identify it by the amount of golden lustre which the name implies. The casual observer at least, receives the impression that the golden color is one of the bird's external characters, and upon the first sight of an actual specimen I have heard persons give vent to their disappointment in the words: "where is the gold?" and similar expressions. The bird, however, is a general dark-brown color throughout, with a purplish tinge. The feathers of the head, neck, tibia and tarsus are tipped with deep yellowish-rufous, and the tone of the entire color of the bird, in certain lights, is that of a golden brown. So it cannot be said that this bird, like many of the American species, is poorly named. The young bird is lighter in color, and the basal two thirds of the tail is white. This is what the old ornithologists called the Ring-tailed Eagle.

The Golden Eagle dwells and breeds in the most inaccessible cliffs. In all the rugged mountains, from the White Mountains of the East to the Sierra Nevadas of the West, its great form may be seen circling high in the air, far above the rocky fortress on which its nest is built.

The male bird is most watchful during the period of incubation. Wary and shy, yet unawed by anything but man, he knows the stealthy Indian who covets his feathers for a fantastic dress, and he knows the ever watchful mountaineer who would lay him low with his fatal shot. He lends not an ear to the voices of the millions of warblers that throng the valleys below, nor does he heed the baying of hounds in their attack of the wounded deer. Like a sentinel on ramparts in the clouds he prefers to live solitary and alone. He is startled at nothing, and views with calm composure the death of an opponent who disputes his right to the abode he holds as his own. He circles in the mist that shrouds the mountain tops and he rests on the crags whose summits are covered with snow. Far down the valley his keen eye discerns, through the curtains of vapor, the form of a grouse or a rabbit and, swooping down from that cloud-topped cliff, seizes his prey in the depths below and carries it on triumphant wings to his hissing young or waiting mate. On several occasions I have had the pleasure (?)

of observing the Golden Eagle attack live fowls and it is astonishing to see the composure in which it crushes the life out of his prey. No matter how his victim strives to gain his freedom, no matter how loud its cries, nor how desperate its struggles, the Eagle is as unconcerned as though he were perched quietly upon his resting place. No sooner, however, has his victim quieted down and resigned itself to its fate, than with one powerful blow of his hooked beak, the throat is cut and the struggle is ended.

In winter when his habitations are covered with snow, and the lakes and rivers are bound in ice and all his vast domain is bleak and dreary, when it is almost impossible to obtain food, he betakes himself to the low-lands. Thus in Ohio quite a number of specimens are captured during the mild winter months, subsisting on the carcasses of dead cattle. The same may be said of the Bald Eagle. They are often killed by the use of strychnine which is placed on the dead carcasses. Several fine specimens have come into my possession which were killed in this manner. Yet he who shoots a Golden Eagle, may be assured that he has secured a trophy which is uncommonly rare, and though the bird is seldom seen, it is not considered rare among ornithologists. It shuns man and seeks the uninhabited parts of the earth, where it can dwell in security midst the remotest solitude.

There seems to be no truth in the many legends and stories printed and told from time to time concerning Eagles carrying away young babes. At least in all of my efforts through correspondence to ascertain the truth of such reports, I have failed to trace them to authentic sources. In many cases it is a hopeless task to trace the origin of these yarns. They all seem to have originated in the brain of some scribe who was anxious for a sensation and who managed, with the aid of a prolific imagination, to exaggerate an ordinary incident.

There is no question but that an Eagle can fly away with considerable weight in its talons, and they have been frequently known to carry away young lambs. But the very mode of life of the present species would tend to throw some doubt on the probability of its coming in close proximity to man or anything in the shape of a human being. My latest experience in regard to these exaggerations may be briefly told. An uncle of mine residing in Scotland, recently clipped from a Scottish paper the following item.

A despatch from Xenia, Ohio, dated 18th ult., says:—An exciting and noble battle took place in one of the pasture fields at the Soldiers' Orphans' Home this morning.

Wallace Meade, a 15-year-old boy had gone out to look for some cattle, when he was attacked by a large eagle. When the boy first saw the eagle it was perched on a tree, and he started to run for the Institution. The bird of freedom gave chase and overtook the youngster, and buried its talons in the fleshy part of his leg, but the boy was able to shake his assailant off. It then jumped upon the little fellow and bit him upon the arm. The boy commenced to fight the eagle and went at the noble bird in true pugilistic style with his bare fists. He succeeded in getting a good hold upon the eagle's neck and choked and crushed it to death. The boy was exhausted after the conflict and had to be taken to the hospital, where it was found that he had received many scratches and bites. The body of the eagle measures four feet from tip to tip. This is the first eagle captured in Green County for many years.

On receiving this item, I immediately wrote Mr. Meade, who promptly replied, saying that he caught the eagle on the ground and choked it to death. A week before this a Golden Eagle had escaped from one of the parks in Columbus, and it is generally supposed to be the same bird that Mr. Meade killed, being tame enough to allow any one to approach it, and especially so in case of extreme hunger. The nest of the Golden Eagle is usually a massive structure placed on inaccessible rocks. It is composed of a mass of sticks, and the same eyrie is occupied by the same pair of birds for many years. The eggs are two, three and rarely four in number; these measure about three inches long by two and a half inches broad. Their color is a creamy, dirty white, occasionally immaculate, but they are usually spotted and blotched with pale reddish-brown. In the extensive collection of J. Parker Norris of Philadelphia, there are to be found two sets of these eggs which were taken in the mountains of California.

Third and Fourth Class Mail Matter.

Considerable stir has been created lately over an old law that has been resurrected by the post office officials, in which it states that on the outside wrappers of third and fourth class matter nothing but the name and address of the sender shall appear, with the word "from" in addition to the address. This law has laid buried for nearly nine years and during that time the public have printed their business and other matters on the face of their wrappers, but since the new edition of the Postal Laws and Regulations came out, this is all changed, as the old law is being enforced. When it was first sprung on the public, New York and other merchants kicked so vigorously against it that the Postmaster General suspended temporarily the law as regards third class or printed matter, but leaving it in full force on the fourth class or merchandise.

Therefore, when any of the readers of this have occasion to mail any stamps, minerals, relics, etc., in quantities, they should put only their name and address on the package with the word "from;" should they add any more the package will be charged at letter rates and the deficiency collected on delivery. The law seems to be a senseless one, but as it is the public will have to abide by it, at least until such time as public indignation shall cause its repeal.

Just think of it! The next 25 numbers of THE CURIOSITY WORLD for only 25 cents.

R. R. Bogert & Co., will hold their Third Auction Sale of Postage Stamps, Entire Envelopes, Post Cards, etc., at New York, December 9, 1887.

A somewhat peculiar English sparrow's egg was lately shown me by a friend, one half of the egg being white and the other half black.

There were 438,878 trade dollars received at the Baltimore Sub Treasury since the act was passed providing for their redemption. There were 1541 rejected on account of mutilation.

A short time ago an oyster man while dredging near St. Michaels, Md., caught a bottle containing an oyster which could not be extracted without breaking the bottle. Such articles are reported as being often found by oystermen.

Mr. W. L. Emory, of Fitchburg, Mass., formerly publisher of the New England Philatelist and dealer in stamps, has again started in the stamp business. Mr. Emory has been in the U. S. Navy for the last year, but had to leave it on account of trouble with his eyes.

A copper battle axe and a copper spear head were dug up recently in Kent Co., Maryland. The battle axe weighs about a pound and is well shaped and finely tempered. The spear head is about twelve inches in length, and shows excellent workmanship, the edges being smoothly beveled from the center of the blade. The end of the spear that fitted into the staff is niched.

JOB Printing cheap. R. N. Edwards, Brooks, Ma.

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7 Ecuador, " .15
6 Hayti, '81, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 20c., .35
6 Honduras, old and new, .15
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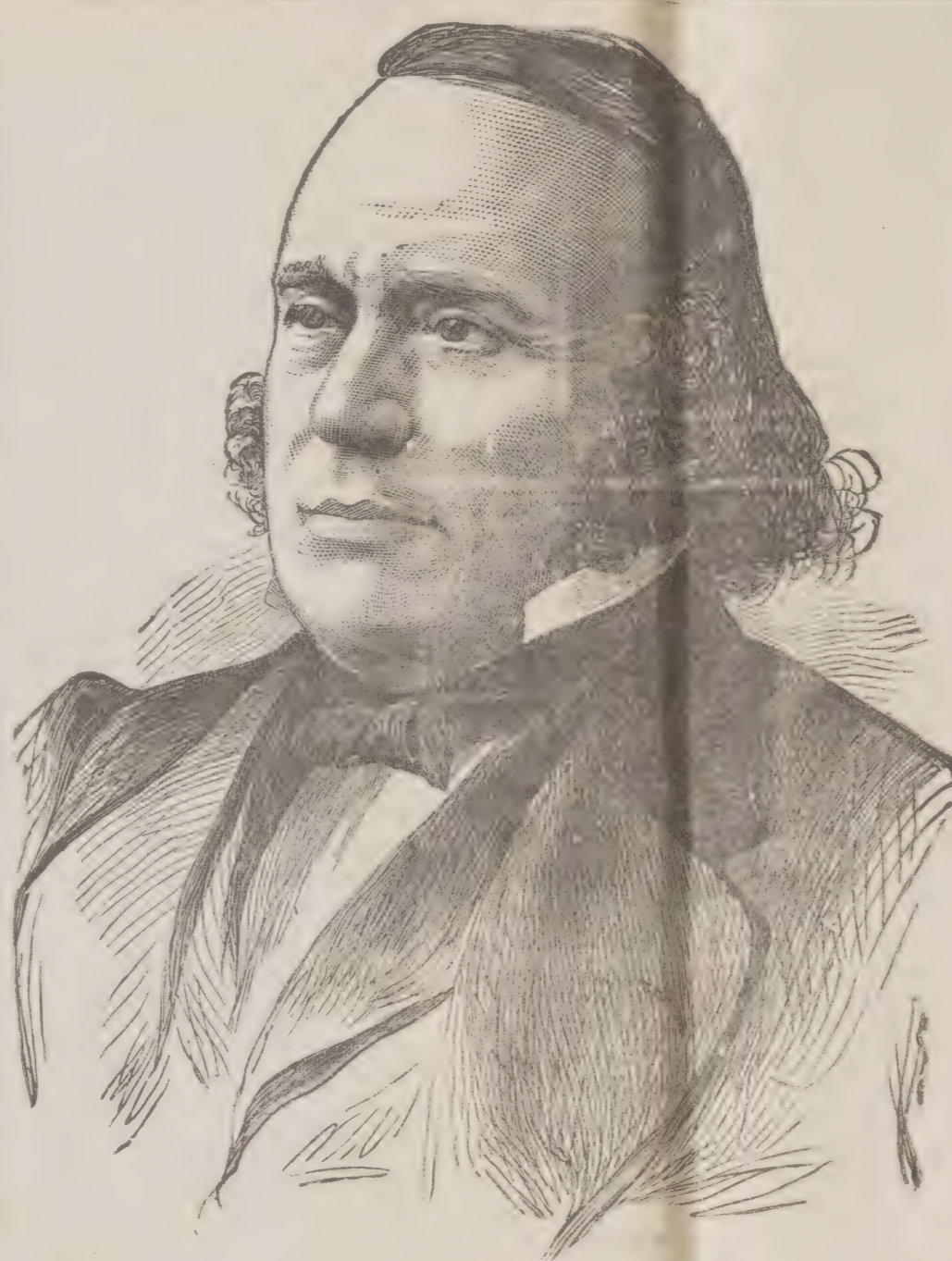
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LOUIS JOHN RUDOLPH AGASSIZ.

Professor Louis J. R. Agassiz.
Prof. Agassiz, the American naturalist of French descent, was born in Motiers, canton of Fribourg, Switzerland, May 28, 1807. His family were among the Huguenots who were driven from France by the revocation of the edict of Nantes. For six generations the lineal ancestors of Professor Agassiz have been clergymen. His father was formerly pastor of St. Imier, of Basel, and afterwards removed to Motiers. His mother was Mlle. Rose Mayor, daughter of a physician in the canton of Vaud. She superintended the education of Louis, until he was eleven years of age, when he was sent to the gymnasium of Bienne. In the meantime his parents removed to Orbe, a small town at the foot of the Jura, and here during his vacations the student's attention was drawn to the natural sciences under the influence of a young clergyman named Flivaz. His studies were first directed to plants. He studied four years at Bienne and then, at the age of fifteen years, entered the college at Lausanne, where he passed two years, and then went to Zurich, where he studied two years in a medical school. He continued his medical studies at the university of Heidelberg, devoting much time to the study of anatomy and physiology under Tiedemann, zoology under Leuchart, and botany under Blischoff. In 1827 he entered the university of Munich, where he formed intimate friendships with the many eminent men there assembled. For four years he studied the organization of plants, embryonic developments of animals, mineralogy and philosophy. At the death of Professor Spix, of the Brazil scientific exploring expedition Agassiz was selected to elaborate the ichthyological department, upon which but very little had been done, and the manner in which he accomplished this task, placed him in the foremost ranks of naturalists. His second great undertaking was the "Natural History of the Fresh-water Fishes of Europe." While studying living fishes, his attention was drawn to the fossil species found in the fresh water deposits of Switzerland and Bavaria, and he devoted seven years to the study of them, before beginning his publication. He was appointed professor of natural history in the college of Neuchâtel, and extended his researches to other branches of zoology. His work on "Fossil Fishes" is contained in five large volumes, with folio atlas containing about four hundred plates. About one thousand species are described, and figured in their natural size, and there are short indications of about seven hundred more. From 1836 to 1845, Agassiz spent his summer vacations among the Alps engaged in the study of the glaciers and the geological phenomena they produce. These researches are embodied in two works, the first of which appeared in 1840, and the latter in 1847.

In the autumn of 1846, Prof. Agassiz arrived at Boston, Mass. The object of his visit was to make himself more familiar with the natural history and geology of this country. In 1847 he made the acquaintance of Prof. A. D. Bache, superintendent of the United States Coast Survey and accepted an invitation from Professor

Bache to avail himself of the facilities presented by the operations of the coast survey, for the further prosecution of his researches. In the latter part of the year 1847, Mr. Abbott Lawrence founded the Scientific school in Cambridge, and a professorship of zoology and geology was offered Mr. Agassiz, which he accepted. He entered upon his duties at Cambridge in the spring of 1848, and at the close of the academic year, started with twelve of his pupils upon a scientific exploration of the shores of Lake Superior, the results of which are contained in the volume entitled "Lake Superior." In 1848, in conjunction with Dr. Gould, he published the "Principles of Zoology" for the use of schools and colleges. Late years Mr. Agassiz has devoted his time alternately to teaching, lecturing and making original investigations. He has traversed the country from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi valley, and delivered lectures in the principal towns. He spent the winter of 1850 upon the reef of Florida, in the service of the coast survey, ascertaining the mode of growth and the direction of the increase of the reef. In 1852 he accepted a professorship of comparative anatomy in the medical college of Charleston, S. C., which he retained two years, making, in his spare time, a thorough study of the marine animals of that coast. In 1856 he was elected into the academy of sciences in Paris, and the Royal Society of London, and soon after received similar honors from all the other great learned societies in Europe and America. On April 1st, 1865, he started on an excursion to Brazil, where he spent a year studying the fauna of that region. In 1871 he started on a voyage around Cape Horn in the coast survey steamer Hassler, in company with several other men of science. The results of this voyage undertaken for deep sea dredging, have proved to be of great importance in the study of oceanic fauna.

The influence of Prof. Agassiz upon the scientific development of the United States has been profound and far-reaching. He has called into energetic action the minds of a large body of young men of science, who are laboring in every field of investigation with the enthusiasm he has inspired in the methods he has taught, and whose faithful study has contributed largely to the works since published by the master. Professor Agassiz died in December, 1873, and all the civilized world mourns his loss.

What Shall I Study First?

BY W. S. BEEKMAN.

(Continued.)

SPECIFIC WEIGHT.

If a vessel could be so heavily laden while in the Dead Sea, that it would just float—no more—and then transported to the Lake of Geneva, we will say, it would in all probability sink. It is customary in salting pork or making brine for other purposes, for the person to test the brine, from time to time, to see if it be strong enough. The way of testing is very simple. An egg is placed in the brine. If it sinks, more salt is to be added, the brine is weak. If the egg will stay in the liquid

at any depth it may be placed, the brine is strong, but in order to be of full strength more salt is added to the liquid; so that instead of remaining at any position it might be placed in the liquid, it will float on the surface; then the brine is of full strength.

Supposing we have four liquids—kerosene, water, molasses and quick-silver. Carefully putting them into a glass, first the quick-silver, then the molasses, following with the water and oil. They float one upon another in the last mentioned order. A little pointed bullet dropped into the liquid will rapidly sink through the layers of the fluids until it reaches the quick-silver, when after diving under the surface for perhaps a moment, it will bob to the surface of the mercury, and float like a cork in water. A small piece of coal dropped into the liquids would go no further than the molasses, where it would float. A piece of oak would float in the water, while a piece of willow or poplar might not even go through the kerosene, but remain on the surface.

The same examples of difference in the sustaining force of bodies might be as well illustrated by floating still lighter substances in the various gases. When a balloon sails through the air, it is because the ratio of the two is less than one of the former to one of the latter. Place in a large jar or crock a few lumps of calcite or limestone and pour over it a pint of diluted muriatic acid. Considerable instructive amusement may be obtained by floating feathers and the like in close proximity to the mouth of the jar; or, still better by blowing soap bubbles, and allowing them to float on the quivering vibrations caused by the unstable conditions of the pressure between the evolving gas and the gaseous air.

These peculiarities are enforced through the action of gravitation, as you may already know. I propose to be as explicit as possible, because I am writing entirely for those who do not know, rather than for the more fortunate. Gravitation, one of the constants of Nature, acts upon bodies directly proportional to their distance from the centre of the earth, and according to the amount of ultimate particles contained in the body. It is at its maximum at regular sea-level, decreasing as we proceed upward. One of the results of gravity is weight. The ratio of weight is specific gravity. Specific gravity being a ratio, is of necessity a constant. In our text-books specific gravity and density appear to be confounded and used as synonyms. It is quite important that we distinguish between the two. Unless we adhere to the Metrical system of weights, so strongly recommended in a previous paper, two different series of numbers will have to be remembered to express the two. In the French, or metric system only, will the same number express the two terms.

If we take a cubic foot of water at a given temperature of 60° F. it will be found to weigh very nearly 1,000 avoirdupois ounces.

This number of times heavier is the ratio of the constant specific gravity. It is not convenient in practical work to deal with cubic inches, feet, or measurements of any kind. A much simpler method, and the one that I have previously claimed being the most important of all permanent investigations, to be duly acquired, and invariably followed by the amateur.

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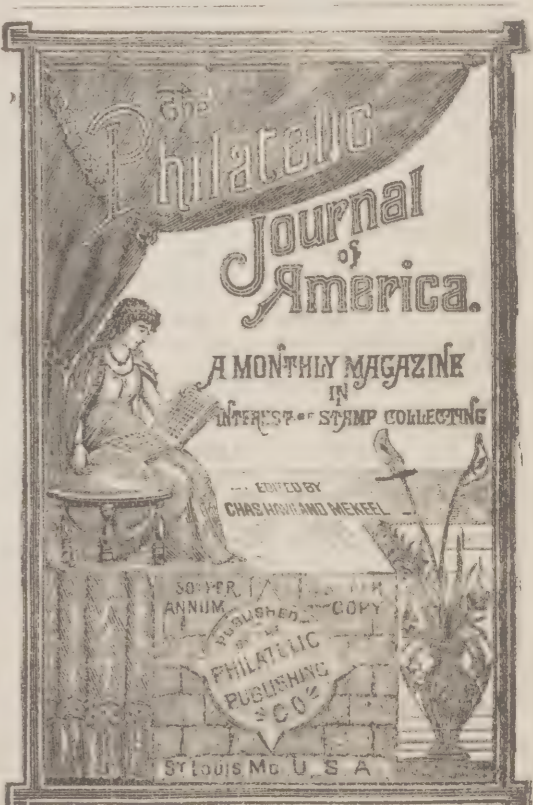
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ALEXANDER AGASSIZ.
EMINENT MAN OF SCIENCE.

The son of Louis Agassiz occupies a place probably not less distinguished than that filled by his illustrious father. Alexander Agassiz is one of our most eminent men of science and regarded with grateful interest to which men of superior attainments who employ them for the public good are surely entitled. He was born at Neuchatel, Switzerland, on December 17, 1835. His mother was a sister of Alexander Brann, Louis Agassiz's friend while at college, a woman distinguished in several ways, but especially for her skill in the art of drawing. When, in 1846, his father left home for the United States, Alexander remained at home with his mother. He was fifteen years of age when he landed in the United States a motherless boy. His father had him prepared for college, and he was entered a student at Harvard, where he was graduated in 1855. Agassiz chose civil engineering as a profession, and studied in the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard. He took his degree of B. S. in 1857. During three terms in the chemical school, with which he supplemented his studies at the scientific school, he devoted a part of his time to teaching in his father's school for young women. Agassiz went to California in 1859, where he received the appointment as assistant on the United States Coast Survey. His work was on the north-western boundary. After resigning office he employed himself in San Francisco making drawings of fish that had been caught along the boundary. At this time also, he began to make additions to his father's collection of natural objects. He spent the greater part of the winter of 1859-60 at Panama and Acapulco, collecting specimens for the Museum of comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts. The next spring he returned to his work at San Francisco. After examining mines in the interior of California, in July, 1860, he returned to Cambridge, where he was appointed agent of the Museum. He then took the full course in the zoological and geological departments of the Lawrence Scientific School. Previous to the absence of his father in Brazil, in 1865 he had been appointed assistant in zoology at the Museum, Cambridge, of which he was in full charge at that time. In 1865 also he engaged in coal mining in Pennsylvania, additional to his work at home in Massachusetts. From 1866 to the autumn of 1869 Agassiz assisted with brilliant success in the development of mining property in Michigan. He afterwards went abroad to examine the museums of the leading countries of Europe. When, in 1870, he returned to Cambridge, he was made Assistant Curator of the Museum. His father died in 1873, when Alexander succeeded him as Curator of that institution. In that year also, he was elected by the alumni one of the overseers of Harvard. Four years subsequently he was chosen by the corporation one of its fellows. He resigned the honor two years ago on account of bad health. Mr. Agassiz retains his connection with the Museum, which he has enriched by liberal gifts. It is stated that in all he has given more than half a million dollars to Harvard University. At the present time he is away on a long voyage to Alaska, taking rest and hoping to regain strength, after the exhaustion induced by excessive application.

Mr. Agassiz was for a time connected with the Anderson School of Natural History, on Penikese Island. Some results of his work in various parts of South Ameri-

ca in 1875 are seen in the collection of Peruvian antiquities at the Peabody-Museum, Cambridge. In 1873 he gained the Walker prize of a thousand dollars from the Boston Society of Natural History. Two years later he assisted Sir Wyville Thompson to arrange and make up the collection of the Challenger exploring expedition. He was the first foreigner to receive the "Prix Serres" from the Academie des Sciences de Paris. The honor is awarded only once in ten years. Agassiz spent the winters from 1876 to 1881 in deep sea dredging, the steamer Blake being placed at his disposal for this purpose by the Coast Survey. His degree of LL. D. is from the University of Cambridge, England. He was elected a member of the American Association for the advancement of Science in 1869, six years later he became a fellow, and in 1870 was made Vice President. In 1866 he was elected to membership in the National Academy of Science, and held the office of Foreign Secretary till 1880. Dr. Agassiz is likewise a member of the following societies: The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; the New York Academy of Sciences; the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia; the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.; the Society of Natural History of Montreal, Canada; the Geological Society of Manchester, England; the Zoological, Linnean, and Royal Microscopical Societies of London, and other societies of less renown. The list of his published works would be a long one. All his papers and volumes are on subjects of natural history.

This eminent man of science is unpretending in his manners, lively and energetic in his movements. He is kindly-natured and affable, a good and a wise man; like his great father, an honor to human nature.

An Oologist's Vacation.

BY LE GRAND T. MEYER.

In nearly all the large wholesale and retail commercial houses it is customary to give the employed a vacation varying in length from one to three weeks. Usually the employers allow the salary to go on just as if they were at work; at any rate our firm did, so it was with no small amount of approbation we waited for our furlough of two weeks. "Variety is the spice of life" and to those who have been accustomed to stand on their feet trying to sell goods to persons not wishing to buy, the change seemed like "being born again."

Harry Palmer, my archaeological friend, and his oological friend, "Yours truly," Norman Lane, were about to have their long winter day-dreams of the pleasant hours they would spend on the banks of some rapid flowing river or encamped in the woods on the shore of some mirror-like lake, realized. We had concluded to camp at Musquash Lake this year. As our vacation came earlier than commonly (it being so at our earnest request) we resolved ourselves into a Committee on Ways and Means, to meet at Harry's boarding place to discuss our plans for future operations.

"What do you want to do, Harry?" I asked, as we were comfortably seated in rockers the following night at his "flat." "Well, I'll tell you Norman, I want to fish, hunt and collect the whole time I am gone." "Well, that's me with the exception of the hunting, for you know that at this time (May 23) hunting will amount to nothing besides it will be sinful to destroy life during breeding seasons." I replied. "You are quite a naturalist. I guess I'll leave my guns at home. Are you going to take yours?" asked Harry. "Yes, I'll have to take mine in order to kill birds to identify specimens I may collect."

So we decided to take a breech-loading rifle. We had a Ballard 22 cal., a number twelve double-barreled shot gun and fish poles, also a thousand rifle cartridges and two hundred gun shells loaded with different sized shot. We rented a square canvas tent about ten feet by ten, and laid in a good supply of bacon, crackers, flour, sugar, salt, lard, butter, and coffee. Also two frying pans, one kettle, coffee-pot and a piece of sheet iron constructed so as to be placed over the fire to cook on. Meanwhile the time until the twenty-fifth of May slowly elapsed, but at last our day of liberty arrived, and on the seven o'clock morning train we left the busy city of Chicago for the beautiful Musquash Lake, in Indiana. Musquash is Indian for muskrat; the lake was probably named this on account of the immense number inhabiting the southern marshy portion of the lake. After a pleasant ride of four hours

through a rich agricultural country, we at last reached the little station at the head of the lake. Leaving our luggage, we launched our beautiful cedar canoe and started on an exploring trip around the lake to find a desirable camping site. We finally decided to encamp opposite the little station, on the east bank of the lake. The afternoon was spent in hauling over in our boat our camping outfit; so we pitched our tent in time to pass our first night under it. We were obliged, the first night, to sleep on a bed of leaves and our overcoats, because it was so late when the camp was finished and the supper disposed of, that we did not have time to acquire of our rural neighbors for straw.

After washing our supper dishes, we about nine o'clock gave ourselves up to the luxury of repose. Tired as we were, though in such strange surroundings, 'tis little wonder we were soon in the land of dreams. I may have been asleep an hour or thereabouts, when I was awakened by a terrible grip on my arm. Raising up I saw Harry in the bright, silvery moonlight, pale and shivering, clinging to my arm.

"What's the matter, Harry?"
"Do don't don't you hear that panther?" he managed to stammer out.

At that moment the loud hoot of the Great Horned Owl burst on my ear.

"You silly boy, that's only an owl. Take the gun and we will go and kill him." After searching around the woods a short time, we finally located him on the top of a dead tree.

"There he is, Harry," I whispered, as we had skulked near him; "take good aim at his body."

The order was obeyed to the letter. The report of the fowling piece in the death-like stillness may be better imagined than described, but the owl fell and Harry ran to pick it up.

"Help me, Norman! Harry up quick! The thing is tearing off my hands!" were the first exclamations I heard.

Rushing to the rescue I found that the bird, although mortally wounded, was by no means devoid of life; and Harry, not knowing the tenacity with which they cling to life, had seized it by its powerful talons and as a result was firmly grasped by them.

"I never thought that those things could howl and tear so, Norman," he said after recovering his breath. But I'll learn something about these animals before I go back to the city."

We walked back to our tent, Harry carrying the now dead owl, and bearing the brunt of my jokes about the "panther" and "the thing tearing off my hands." We put some ammonia, from our medicine chest on his hands, then again occupying our impromptu beds, were soon dreaming of howling goblins, spooks and every possible imaginative being.

(To be continued.)

The Inventor of Coins.

BY E. P. NEWCOMER.

History does not inform us how early silver and gold began to be used as money. Abraham returned from Egypt nearly 2,000 years before Christ, "very rich in cattle, in silver and in gold;" and in his purchase of the cave of Machpelah he weighed out the consideration agreed upon, "400 shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." The use of metals however, in the form of wedges or bars, though a great advancement upon simple barter, or the use of grain, cattle and other commodities, was still attended with inconveniences. "At every transaction the precise weight of metal must be computed; a hammer and chisel must be at hand to cut it off and a balance to weigh it. The fineness of the metal was also to be ascertained." The method of shaping the metals into pieces of convenient size and stamping upon each its exact value ended all these troubles. He who first did this was the inventor of coins; but history is silent respecting his name, his country or the date of his invention.

Homer speaks of the workers in metals but makes no mention of coined money. Herodotus says that the invention was Asiatic and that as far as he knew, that the Lydians were the first who struck money; and although the oldest coins now extant have usually been supposed to be Grecian, there are reasons for thinking that the invention was Asiatic. Coins were used probably as early as the 8th century B. C. and by the 4th century, money was found throughout the civilized world.

A Plea for the Old Two-Cent Postage Stamp.

BY THOMAS COKE WATKINS.

To abolish the present two-cent postage stamp of detestable and disgusting green, and restore the old color, is, I am convinced, the unanimous voice of not only every American philatelist, but all good people of sound principles. For the first time in the history of American postal art the Post Office department had succeeded in clothing the chaste and satisfactory design of the two-cent stamp in ink of a color that answered the requirements of good taste. Titian himself would have approved of it. It was an ideal postage stamp—the red two-center—and the hue lent additional dignity even to the majestic profile of George Washington. Then suddenly, without warning, without plausible pretext or reasonable explanation, the amazing edict issued from the General Post Office which inflicted upon sixty-five million free Americans the crude, pale, cold, sickly, humiliating green stamp of to-day. It was an unprecedented blow at progressive good taste. It was like a sudden plunge from æsthetic enlightenment back into mediæval darkness.

Perhaps no single small thing exercises such a profound and perpetual educational influence upon the artistic sense of the nation, as the unit stamp of letter postage. It is under the eye every day of the year—a dozen, perhaps a hundred times a day. It is closely associated with every sentiment and every emotion known to the human heart. It helps the mighty wheels of commerce to go round; it accompanies the missives of friendship, it conveys the tender protestations of love. The green stamp cheapens the welcome epistle and adds unnecessary pain to the unpleasant document.

Give us back the dull, warm Venetian red! Take away forever from our sight the odious enormity, the obtrusive offensiveness of this unhealthy hue which has been severely, but too truly, described as "stewed spinach mashed against a white marble tombstone." "Give us back the brown two center!" is, I am sure, the hearty cry of every reader of the CURIOSITY WORLD.

25 named Minerals, 10c. Eggs at cost. Lists free. A. N. Fuller, Lawrence, Kansas. (21)

WAR Department 90c and price list, 15 cents. H. E. Newcomer, Mount Morris, Ill. *20

15 Shape cards with your name on, only 10c. Howard H. Brown, Old Bridge, N. J. *20

A Isaac & Lorraine, 7 var, comp, unused, 16c. 100 Spain, 14c. P. S. Johnson, Salem, Mass. *19

YOUR name inserted in our Directory for 10 cents Agents Name Directory, Box 110, Pottstown, Pa. *20

SEND 10 cents for a large bundle of choice reading matter. A. H. Beers, 600 E. Pratt St. Baltimore, Md. *20

SELLING out. Send stamp for large list of Relics, Curios, etc. L. E. Hudson, Ellensburg, N. Y. *20

CAPILLA The Great Hair Restorer! By Mail, \$1. Dr. R. Boyle, 1432 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia, Pa. *31

COLLECTORS cabinets; send for Photos, description and prices Hudson & Co., Ellensburg, N. Y. *20

10 CENTS Spain, for 135 good foreign stamps, Spain, etc. and others rare. E. P. Newcomer, Ida Grove, Iowa. *23

STAMPS on approval at 33 1-3 per cent com. Reference or \$1 deposit required. Ashley A. Smith, Auburn, Maine. *20

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Birds Eggs. Specimens and Supplies. Largest stock, lowest price. New 20c. cat. 2c. Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y. *20

COINS: 10 Foreign, 25c; 4 United States Half cents, 25c; Set of Confederate Bills, 50c to \$500, 75c; Pocket Manual, 10c; List free. Geo. J. Bauer, 73 Front St., Rochester, N. Y. *20-51

TAKE NOTICE STAMP AGENTS! Send me three cents in stamps for approval sheets of stamps to sell at a good commission. Prizes given. YALE STAMP CO., New Haven, Conn. *24

NEXICOS 5 for 7c; Venezuela, 4 for 6c; Sheets of rare stamps on approval at 25 per cent; send for sheet. My new list FREE! Arthur Gallagher, 1 Astor Place, Jersey City, N. J. *20

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H. J. MIRON, Editor.

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9 lines,	.45	1.13	2.13	4.26	8.45
10 lines,	.50	1.25	2.35	4.70	9.39
11 lines,	.55	1.38	2.58	5.15	10.33
12 lines,	.60	1.50	2.80	5.60	11.27
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Some very fine ones ranging in price from 25 cents to \$2.00 each.

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The small notched scrapers that usually sell for 50 cents, I now sell at 25 cents. Oval scrapers, 20 to 75 cents each.

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The flint heads used on war clubs chipped all around the edges; price according to workmanship; .60, .75 and \$1.00 each.

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All sizes and from different localities. The prices for ordinary forms, but very fine specimens range from 75 cents to \$2.50. Odd forms, which it would be extremely hard to duplicate, \$3 to \$5.

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Or ungrooved axes, in all manner of shapes and sizes, from 40 cents to \$1.25

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The specimens range from good to fine, 30 cents to \$1.50 each.

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I have a limited number of fine pestles which show great age. Prices according to size, \$1.25 to \$2.00

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These are among the rarest of stone relics. They are of all sizes and shapes. Those that are not quite perfect are sold at from \$1.50 to \$5.00. Fine perfect ones from \$5.00 to \$25.00 each. They are extremely rare and hard to obtain.

ORNAMENTS.

These are taken from the Mounds in the West and are usually made of a variety of slate, making a very pretty specimen. Perfect ones, \$1.25 to \$2.50 each.

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Mr. Geo. W. McFarland of Trenton, N. J., has given up his stamp business, and is now managing the stamp business of Mr. E. B. Sterling.

In the king's field, at Faversham, England, were found, in March, 1886, a large number of old coins, with a quantity of gold and silver jewelry set with garnets.

S. Hellier, of London, England, is about to publish the "Philatelic Advertiser and Collectors Referee," which as its name indicates, will be principally devoted to advertisements.

December number of The Niagara Falls Philatelist appears with a new cover, designed by F. Meyers. This paper has improved very much during the last three months, and we hope it will keep it up.

In 1885 nearly two hatfuls of the coins of Edward I and King David of Scotland were come upon by two men cutting a drain on the land of Mr. Ferguson, Beaumont, Cumberland.

Edwin England, of London, is now publishing the Philatelic Critic. We hope it will improve and come up to Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, published by Mr. England several years ago.

It makes us smile to see the subscriptions come pouring in. Well let them come, and we will continue to smile. Now is the time to subscribe, 25 cents pays for the WORLD to Jan. 1, 1889,—24 numbers.

"We have said many times that our only terms for advertising were cash in advance. If a man cannot pay for his advertisement when he sends his copy, he is just the man we don't want to do business with.—[Niagara Falls Philatelist.

We agree with you there, gentlemen.

In June, 1885, a vessel was found at Long Crendon, England, beneath the wall of an old stable containing as many as 800 coins, mostly bearing the image and superscription of Queen Elizabeth, though a few were of the reign of James I. and Charles I.

W. E. Skinner of Lynn, Mass., formerly publisher of the Agassiz Journal, is in Laconia, (N. H.) this week. He advertises himself as the only Skinner, the Worlds greatest Mesmerist, Ventriloquist, etc. The boys who have taken in his entertainment say he is "great."

Philatelic Frauds, 40 pages, (published by Simmons, 1883.) 15 cents; Black List, 12 pages, (published by Hubbard, 1886.) 11 cents; Coffin's Directory of Philatelic Frauds, 1887, 12 pages, 11 cents, or the three books for 25 cents, postpaid. Address, J. M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

A correspondent informs us that the double perforation of the new 2 cent stamps exists on some of the stamps, at top and bottom of the sheet. On some it is between the regular perforation and the edge of the sheet, and on others, between the stamp and the regular perforation. It also appears on the 4 cent stamps.

The year 1886 witnessed a great Scandinavian find in the island of Gothland, now half forgotten, but in the palmy days of the Hansatic league one of the great entrepôts of the eastern trade of Europe. Over 3,000 silver coins came to the light, not to mention silver bracelets and numbers of the small rods of fine silver that in early days were cut up and used in lieu of coin.

Secretary Bradt has just issued the "Constitution of the American Philatelic Association, adopted at its first session held in New York City, September 14th, 1886, and amended at its second session held in the City of Chicago, August 8th, 1887," in book form. It is nicely gotten up, and contains the addresses and numbers of all members of the Association, with several blank pages at the end in which to write the names of the new members. If a copy could be placed in the hands of every Philatelist in this country, we believe our membership would be doubled within 60 days.

50 Philatelic Papers, no two alike, post free \$1.50. 100 all different, \$3.50. A collection of 500 varieties, American and Foreign including complete files of Foreign Stamp Collectors' News, (30 numbers) National Philatelist, (12 numbers) Granite State Philatelist, (26 numbers) New England Philatelist, (12 numbers) Empire State Philatelist, etc. \$25.00. 10 Auction Sale Catalogues—Coins, Stamps, etc. \$1.00. Philatelic publications, Stamps, Autographs, Coins and Indian Relics, bought, sold and exchanged. John M. Hubbard, Lake Village, N. H.

U. S. Issues of 1861-68.

BY APOR.

Of all the issues of the United States postage stamps, there is but one, that affords more room for thought, or a larger scope for study, than the issue of 1861-68. It would indeed be a rather difficult task, to chronicle all the varieties and oddities of this issue now known to collectors. New and minute varieties are constantly being discovered, and almost every collector who has taken pains to look over a lot of these stamps, has found some new variety. Such, anyway has been my experience, and there are collectors whose facilities for resurrecting old stamps more than equal mine, and if they have only taken the pains, they must surely have been successful. Odd perforation, differences of grill, slight variations in color, almost imperceptible die varieties, and hitherto unknown and hardly-to-be-seen types are among the common discoveries, while more valuable oddities are classed as uncommon and among some collectors, especially beginners, as scarce, rare and unobtainable. True, some of these are seldom valued except as curiosities, but a large part of them are really worth something, and not every collector possesses them. It would be foolish to attempt to describe all the varieties known even to me, so I shall pass that part by, stick to my text, and give a short sketch of those which are best known of the stamps of 1861-68. Commencing with the 1 cent,—

1861, blue, perforated, profile of Franklin to right, but this last clause of description is useless to anyone acquainted with United States issues, as all the 1 cent postage stamps yet issued have a profile of Benj. Franklin. The one cent is also found imperforate, but whether or not they were issued by the Government in that condition it is hard to say. Some are perhaps the work of cunning dealers or collectors to defraud their fellows, by means of clipping widely perforated specimens.

2 cent 1863 front face of Jackson, perforated 12, black, 20x25 mm. This is the United States' first effort at a two cent stamp, and is of course not as elegant as some later issues.

3 cent 1861, red, Washington's manly face to left, perforated.

5 cent 1861, brown, Jefferson to left, perf.

10 cent 1861, like its predecessor, green, Washington, perforated.

12 cent 1861, black, perforated. Also Washington. Several varieties.

15 cent 1866, the first stamp of its value issued, and it gives honor to our then recently martyred president, bearing Abraham Lincoln's stately profile to right in black on white, perforated.

24 cent 1861, Lilac. Small profile of Washington in center, surrounded by stripes, coils, etc, bearing legend and value in words.

30 cent 1861, commonly catalogued as orange, but it is nearly a lemon color. Perforated.

90 cent 1861, dark blue, Washington in Army Uniform to left. Perforated.

All the above described stamps have plain backs, all printed in taille douce, on white and perforated 12. They are commonly known as the plain backs of '61 and range in price from 1 cent to \$2.50 according to denomination and condition.

The following are catalogued by some dealers, and the prices given are from Sterling's sixth edition:

3 cent 1866, scarlet, Washington, perforated 12, 20x25mm, catalogue price \$10.

5 cent 1861, Jefferson, yellow. Much has been said of late about this specimen, and it is the opinion of some, myself included, that they are the result of chemical action, and the object of intentional fraud. Genuine are catalogued at \$2.50 used, and \$5.00 new.

5 cent 1866, orange brown. I have never seen one of these varieties, and am therefore unable to give my opinion of it. They are catalogued at \$2.50.

The above are the most valuable varieties of the plain backs, but there are others, such as the 24 cent purple 1861, and mauve 1866, 5 cent red brown 1862, 3 cent carmine rose 1863, etc., hardly worth mentioning here.

All of the values of the plain issues, not including varieties, appeared in 1868 with an embossed grill on back 9x14 mm, or 12 lines of 17 squares, and range in price from 3 cents to \$3.00. They also appeared in 1868, with grill 11x14 mm, or 14 lines of 17 squares, up to the value of fifteen cents. All above that are not catalogued. There is also a variety of the 2 cent having grill over entire back of stamp issued in 1867. And another 3 cent 1867, with grill 13x16 mm, or 20 lines of 18 r-2 squares.

This constitutes nearly all that are catalogued of this fine issue. They form an interesting series in our album, and when complete are really valuable, but not every collector can boast a full set.

An Interesting Moth.

BY W. D. FORBES.

Now that entomology is being more generally studied than a few years ago and collecting for amusement is indulged in by many, it may be interesting to young collectors to read about one of our largest and most beautiful moths. The moth we refer to is the Cecropia Emperor Moth so called, the scientific name of which is *Platysamia Cecropia*. Its size is enormous, many specimens measuring from five to seven inches across the wings. Both sets of wings are brown, the anterior pair having an additional shading of red. Nearly in the middle of each of the four wings is a white kidney shaped spot shaded with red and margined with black. These colors which are delicately blended are sufficient in themselves to make a beautiful moth, and when we add to them the pale silky-brown band on the outer edge of the wings, the beautiful markings and the odd crescent shaped spot of bluish-white near the tips of the front pair of wings, we have an object that all will admire and one that will delight any collector's heart.

The cocoon from which this moth emerges late in May or early in June, is about three inches long and an inch or more broad in its widest part. It is composed of two layers; the inner of loose silken fibres, the outer resembling stout brown paper in color and texture. The newly born moth always eats its way out of the smaller end of the cocoon which part is more loosely made than the rest, and is assisted in this by a fluid which it secretes for the purpose of softening the fibres of the tough outer coat. When it emerges from its case it is an odd looking object with its big plump body, and wings no larger than those of a bumble-bee. It now takes such a position that its wings may hang downward and lets them expand, which they do in the marvelously short space of an hour or an hour and a half. The female moth lays from two to three hundred eggs, usually in pairs, fastening firmly to the under side of a leaf with a glutinous substance. The egg is about one-tenth of an inch in length, nearly round, and of a dull white color with a red spot in the middle. The young emerge from these eggs in about a week and in a short time each is as thick as a man's thumb, and from three to four inches long. Its color is pale green with tubercles of red, blue and yellow on its back and sides. Of course such a rapid growth means a great consumption of food, and one or two of these caterpillars will strip the entire foliage from a small fruit tree in one or two days.

Any of our young collectors who have no specimen of this moth would do well to examine the branches of fruit trees for the cocoons which may be found now. If found, they can be left until spring and then placed under glass so that the moth may not be lost. If not successful in this, the perfect moth must be waited for which may be found in May or June as we have stated.

Resolution.

This Resolution was adopted by the National Philatelic society of New York, Nov. 23rd, 1887.

WHEREAS, it is reported that certain stamp dealers and others have petitioned the United States Postoffice Department to reprint some of its obsolete postal issues, and

WHEREAS, this reprinting and reproducing (being ostensibly for the aid of collectors) are entirely uncalled for by any Philatelic Student worthy of the name, but can only result mischievously and to the detriment of those engaged in preserving original specimens of rare and obsolete stamps and envelopes, and

WHEREAS, such reprinting would lower the United States to the level of such governments as Antioquia, Baden, Berge-dorf, Roman States, etc., whose officials have adopted this means of increasing their revenue, and

WHEREAS, this Society put itself on record against all reprinting of obsolete issues on the 19th of May, 1875, at the time of the first reprinting of United States stamps, Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The National Philatelic Society strongly protests against all reprinting by the United States Postoffice Department, as tending to throw discredit on collections already formed, and as destroying the interest and pleasure which all true collectors feel in gathering the postage stamps of the different governments.

JOSEPH RECHERT, President.

W. A. WARNER, Secretary.

Our readers would do well to look over our Exchange column. There are many bargains offered there each issue and this number is no exception to the general rule.

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SOME INTERESTING AUTOGRAPHS.

BY HOWARD K. SANDERSON.
(Continued.)

When King Henry died, the crown came to his son Edward, by his third wife, Jane Seymour. This young scion of royalty was just ten years of age when he ascended the throne. Being under age, by the provisions of his father's will, a council was appointed to govern the Kingdom.

In a collection, this one name need be the only break, for his signature is almost beyond reach. A very good substitute, however, may be had in the shape of a paper signed by all of his council, which may be bought for a matter of twenty-five dollars. In the British Museum there is an autograph letter of Edward, written to the Duke of Somerset and other nobles, thanking them for their victory over the Scots at the battle of Pinkie, dated "at our house of Oatlands, (in Surrey) 18th Sept., 1547. At an auction sale last May, of the Dean of Ely's collection, in London, there was sold an Edward vi., sign manual to a document on vellum, concerning the mint at Canterbury, dated April 5, 1552, with a fine specimen of the great seal, signed also by Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, the Protector Somerset, Lord St. John, Lord Russell, Earl of Warwick, Lord Seymour, Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, Sir Thomas Brown, and Sir Wm. Herbert.

This brought \$100.00. These are the only two specimens we are able to speak of. The young King died on the sixth of July, 1553, in his sixteenth year.

He was succeeded by his sister Mary. She was at this time, thirty-seven years old, homely, wrinkled and sickly, but ambitious and fond of power. One of her first pleasant little acts was to have the head of the beautiful Lady Jane Grey cut off, because she feared her as an aspirant to the throne, first executing Lady Jane's husband as a matter of preface. After this bit of duty had been attended to, she sought to lay hold of her sister Elizabeth, but was not successful. Verily, hers was a reign of terror. The man who avowed himself a Protestant took his life in his hands. She persecuted her people until it seemed as though it were a judgement upon her when she met one day, coming into her room, that great old monster—Death. This was more than she could face, and just as the sun went down on the night of November 17, 1558, there went with it into darkness the life of the cruel queen. We have no wonder that she is called "Bloody Mary." Even now, although three hundred years have passed away, the child shudders when he hears the name of the dead sovereign. She lies silent and still in Westminster Abbey, among her royal relations, her light gone out, her religion overthrown and her dreadful arm motionless in that sleep which knows no ending. The days of turmoil and strife which were her enjoyment, have given place to days of peace, and in her place sits a woman whose power does not come from Pope or Cardinal. Queen Mary had but a short name to write and took but little trouble in putting it on paper. It is the simplest autograph of all the kings and queens. In very small letters and in a plain hand appears the name which has struck terror to so many hearts. We need not say that it is rare, of her work would hardly suffice. It stands fairly as the rarest, with the exception of Edward, in the series. We doubt if but few collectors have ever seen it, much less owned it. In 1883, a fair specimen sold at auction in Boston for eighteen dollars, a price which was ridiculously low. This is the only specimen that has been offered in this country for a long time. The British Museum owns a royal sign manual of Queen Mary, signed in 1558. We doubt if fifty dollars would be more than a low valuation of the name.

Following Mary came her sister Elizabeth. She was twenty-five years of age when she took up the tarnished sceptre laid down by her predecessor. She had red hair, a large nose, and was not a very comely young person, but the people hailed her with joy. We have not the space in which to tell of her checkered career as a queen, how after a great deal scheming she brought the beautiful Mary, Queen of Scots to the scaffold, signing her death warrant, and then flying into a rage upon being apprised of the execution; how the names of Spencer, Bacon and Shakespeare came into prominence while she reigned; how the Protestant ousted the Catholic religion and how a state of semi-tranquility succeeded a regime of strife. But these things and more could be told, were this article a chapter in history rather than a short talk with autograph collectors. In 1603 the great "Virgin Queen" died, having reigned forty-five years. Her signature is perhaps the most remarkable of any we ever see. It is so very queer and so very unusual that we fear we cannot give the reader any conception of its oddity and fantastic shape. Beginning with

an "E" anywhere from one to two inches from "tip to tip," the name is started in a most surprising series of quirks and turns. The succeeding two letters are not of note, but when the "z" is reached, the writer seems to have dwelt for a while, perhaps contemplating how large she ought to have her name in comparison with her frame, for to the tail of the letter there is added a succession of twists and flourishes, which finally, after crossing and recrossing, themselves a few times, get ingloriously mixed up with the rest of the name and perish in confusion. All goes well now until we come to the "b," and here as if to balance the scrawls below, the top of the letter is ornamented with fine sweeps of the quill, making three or four very clumsy loops. The rest of the name could not be read if examined separately, but the "R" at the end is legible, although it is set off with more flourishes. The signature before us comfortably fills a space five inches long by two and a half wide and is made up of twenty one distinct marks of the pen. If the reader cares to see a good fac-simile, let him turn to vol. 7, p 232, of Mrs. Strickland's "Lives of the Queens of England." It is, without doubt, the queerest autograph in English history, or out of it, for that matter. Although excessively rare at the present day, it is rapidly increasing in scarcity. A royal sign manual on paper is worth from thirty to forty dollars. A parchment document may come a little cheaper, but as we have made it our rule to avoid all vellums, from the fact that they are so bulky and hard to manage, we should hardly be content with one of the latter. A friend of the writer's, in Boston, recently purchased at auction a magnificent two page folio letter signed by the Queen, in 1591, for thirty-two dollars, a very low figure for so fine a paper. The British Museum has the original draft of her speech at the dissolution of Parliament, January 2, 1567, reproving the members for their proceedings with regard to the Succession and the Liberties of Parliament, which "two visars have blinded the yees of the lokers one in this present session." It is in the autograph of the Queen. While not so rare as the signature of Mary, yet it is one of the very hard names which must be obtained.

With the death of Elizabeth, came an end to the house of Tudor. The only aspirant for the throne was James the Sixth, of Scotland, son of Mary Queen of Scots, and a cousin of the dead queen. So it happened that a few hours after the death of Elizabeth, James was proclaimed King, under the title of James the First. With him began the reign of the Stuarts. A distinguished writer says of him: "He was ugly, awkward and shuffling both in mind and person. His tongue was much too large for his mouth, his legs were much too weak for his body, and his dull, goggle eyes stared and rolled like an idiot's. He was cunning, covetous, wasteful, idle, drunken, greedy, dirty, cowardly, a great swearer and the most conceited man on earth." His reign was chiefly notable for its absence of much that was important, except it be that Scotland was united to England at his coronation. He was continually in a broil with his Parliament and the Catholics. The famous Gunpowder Plot was discovered during his time, and Guy Fawkes, with his associates were drawn and quartered on Tower Hill. Sir Walter Raleigh, whom people in America know something about, was executed by his order, principally because nothing authentic could be brought against him. This kind of amusement, with hunting and loafing, took up his time until the twenty-seventh of March, 1625, when he died, having reigned twenty-two years. He lies entombed in Westminster Abbey. King James signed his name in great contrast to his cousin Elizabeth. In a cramped, angular hand, in very small space, possessing but one redeeming quality, its legibility. Although very scarce his autograph is not so rare as a good many of the others. The writer recently picked up a very good signature to a folio document for £3, 3s. 6d. and this price may be taken as a fair valuation of the name. Following James the First, came young Charles Stuart, who styled himself Charles the First. He was in his twenty-fifth year, amiable yet dignified. He had a great idea of himself but his word was not to be trusted. We have not the time to trace the exciting events of his reign; of the great civil war between himself and the long Parliament; how the Parliament conquered him and at last voted that it was treason for the King to make war against his legislators, sending up an ordinance to the House of Lords of the King's being tried as a traitor. He was illegally brought to trial January 20, 1649; upon the following Saturday morning he was sentenced to death, and on the 30th of the same month was taken to Whitehall Palace, where the scaffold was erected. He calmly surveyed the scene when brought to the block, felt

of the axe, and asked the executioner to put him out of pain quickly. He gave the signal to strike by stretching out his hands and was instantly killed. Thus died Charles the First, the only sovereign of Great Britain, whose lamp of life went out upon the scaffold. Perhaps a collector cannot find an autograph of much greater historical interest than that of King Charles the First. His is one of the names which are very hard to obtain, and especially in good condition. He wrote his name in a large scrawling hand, yet a great improvement over his predecessors. Placed beside the autograph of King Charles the Second, it is hard to distinguish one from the other, and a reference to date is the only way of determining the matter. At a recent auction sale, an autograph letter of King Charles brought \$35. We have in our possession a four page folio document, bearing the signature of the King, which we value at \$16. Now and then a specimen may be obtained at this figure, but the name is very rare and increasing in value rapidly.

Hardly had the body of King Charles become cold, when the House of Commons passed an act, declaring it treason to proclaim anyone King of England; but the Scotch Parliament, not hearing of it, and upon learning of the King's execution, proclaimed the Prince of Wales, King Charles the Second. Oliver Cromwell, Esq. was having considerable to say about this time, and being a man with brains under his round-head's hat, took it into his head that he might as well be king as anybody. So he went down to Parliament one fine day with some of his soldiers, determined to dissolve that body. Entering, he sat down, but presently made a speech and in excited terms ordered in his soldiers. The speaker was walked out of his chair, the mace thrown out of the window, and having seen everything done to his pleasure, he calmly locked the doors, put the keys in his pocket and went back to his friends. Soon after, a new Council of State was formed, and after a little experimenting, Cromwell got a Parliament to his own liking, and on the sixteenth of December, 1653, he was proclaimed Lord Protector of England in the Court of Chancery. Being nominally king, he ran things to suit himself after having a brush with the Dutch, he took it into his head to stop the depredations of the Spanish, which he succeeded in doing, with the help of Admiral Blake, in the meantime frightening Portugal out of her wits. Thus he went on ruling wisely and well, but only for a short time. He died Sept. 3, 1658, at the age of sixty, the day being the anniversary of the great battle of Worcester, and the day in the year which he called his "fortunate day." The autograph of Oliver Cromwell is excessive rare in any form. During his Protectorate he signed his name "Oliver, P.," other wise it was plain "O. Cromwell," but he it one or the other it is rarely seen. We might add truthfully that his autograph takes rank with bloody Mary and Elizabeth in point of value. We have never seen an autograph letter, although we know there is a fine one in the British Museum. A folio letter signed, is worth fully \$35, but the name is so rarely offered for sale that no stated value can be attached to it. Oliver was succeeded by his son Richard, as Protector, but the year and a half which he served is so unimportant that we pass it by.

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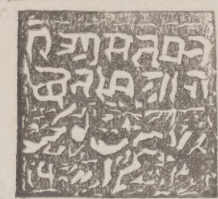
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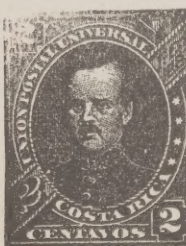
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A Bit of Advice.

BY J. WHITEMORE HALSEY.

Boys are all pretty sure to catch the "postage stamp fever," whether it be at the age of six or at a later period. In some districts it amounts to almost an epidemic, when every boy has his private box of "traders," which he displays to the admiring eyes of his schoolmates, under the desk during school hours; at recess the school yard is fairly alive with approval sheets, knots of inquisitive boys gather around them and their owners, to comment on the rareness, cheapness, or respectability of certain specimens, and to perhaps buy a few cents worth. But the craze must go the way of all things, a severe storm, a rainy spell, or something of that sort will act like the blowing out of a candle,—approval sheets vanish, boxes of stamps are seen no more, and nothing remains but the slowly extinguishing wick upheld by a few survivors, and this too finally fades and goes entirely out, as the collectors become separated and interest slacks. I have seen and passed through many of these "fevers" during the time I have spent in collecting, and I think a few words might be profitably penned on the subject, and taken advantage of by young or inexperienced collectors. As soon as the fever breaks out, it is well to obtain from some reliable dealer about five or six hundred good mixed stamps; beginners are more anxious for quantity than quality, and by offering them two, three or perhaps five of your mixed stamps, to one of their duplicates, you can in many instances obtain some fine specimens in exchange, and also please them a great deal more than by trading singly.

A good plan to keep your duplicates in order, is to obtain a large sheet of tissue paper and gum them all on at regular intervals, with small hinges of sticking paper made for the purpose, and so that they can be readily removed thereby doing away with the necessity of spreading loose stamps out on a surface and searching among them for perhaps five or ten minutes after a certain specimen and probably losing many at the same time. In exchanging with older and advanced collectors, a small blank-book is preferable, all stamps for exchange being sorted out and placed under their proper headings. This book you can keep in your pocket at all times and you will find it very handy indeed. I have myself lost some fine opportunities to exchange, simply because of having left my duplicates loose at home, so you may be sure I was not long in adopting the book system. One thing that is invaluable to any collector is a standard catalogue, the great value of which is to inform you whether certain stamps offered you for sale, are worth buying at the given price. It also keeps you constantly on the lookout for rare varieties which before, you might have passed almost unnoticed.

In calling on a brother collector, I always make it a point to carry my catalogue with me together with some good Philatelic publications; the evening passes very agreeably in looking over each others collections and talking over certain topics prominent in Philately. If you intend to sell stamps during the craze, do not make the mistake, as I myself have done in trying to become agent for several concerns all at once, but select a solid dealer and do not under any circumstances be caught by a high commission; the higher the commission allowed to agents, the higher the stamps must be marked, and you will soon find that you would make more money by selling stamps for some dealer who did not want the earth, even if you did not get quite so large a percentage. Be agent for one dealer and one only, and stick to him until business declines. When the stamp craze abates, which it is sure to do in time, then is the time to reap your harvest. Saying that you have made a fair sum of money by selling stamps, or in other ways, you are now ready to invest it. Make a note of all the collectors in the vicinity whom you know to have given up their collections in disgust, or neglect, and call upon a promising one some evening and ask him what has become of his collection, and he will be pleased to let you look at it: He fishes it out from under a pile of something, hands it to you, remarking that it is of no account. Examine the collection carefully, and if you think it would pay you to buy it, enquire in a casual manner if it is for sale. At this he brightens up and after some deliberation names a figure; it is sure to be a small amount, especially if he is in need of money. Buy the collection for spot cash immediately, and the object of your visit is accomplished.

Make two or three calls every evening if possible, until you have canvassed the vicinity. Supposing you now have bought half a dozen collections; sort them all out carefully, and after adding all that you possibly can to your private collection, pack off the remainder to some reliable

dealer who will pay you as much, if not more than their entire cost to you; then make a grand calculation and see if you have not profited by the "stamp fever."

interesting Relics of the Indians and Mound Builders.

Capt. J. R. Johnson called in last Monday and showed us the following interesting specimens from his large and valuable collection of relics of the Indians and Mound Builders.

Two chiefs (images); clay pipe in the form of a wolf's head; Still Bear medicine man's totem stone, (green granite with white specks); stone handle or ball used on the raw-hide buckets; two flint scalping knives; two perforated tablets of granite for tightening bow strings, one green colored and the other a fine specimen of brown Tennessee granite; hide dressers from one to eighteen inches in length; miscellaneous charms of mussel-shell and granite; an amethyst with a human face graven upon it; concave, convex in form, banner stone, four inches long and varying in width from 1 1/4 to 2 inches, worn by chief in battle on the right arm. This banner stone was dug from a mound on the Sally Wallis farm, on the Cumberland in Tennessee, by Mr. Harry Johnson, a son of Capt. Johnson. Capt. Johnson informs us that his son Harry leaves about the first of next month on a six or nine months' expedition to the Black Hills and portions of Mexico, in order to complete his collection.—[Canton (Ky.) News.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

Exchange Notices not exceeding 24 words are inserted one issue for 5 cents or 3 issues or 10 cents. Over 24 words and less than 48, 10 cents for one issue or 3 issues for 20 cents. This column is open to the public at these rates, whether they are subscribers or not.

For 200 square-cut envelope stamps I will give a brand new Gem stamp album containing space for 600 stamps. John M. Hubbard, Publisher, Lake Village, N. H.

Coins, books, eggs and skates; have eggs of 395, 413, 436, 500, 578 and 683 to exchange for sea shells, stone implements and curiosities. F. M. Kline, 243 Fourth Ave., S. Minneapolis, Minn.

Wanted! 1st class Bird's eggs of all kinds; I can offer 500 varieties in exchange; correspondence solicited. T. Vernon Wilson, Austin, Ill.

Will exchange set of draughting instruments, German silver, in perfect order, originally costing \$6.00; civil engineer's boxwood rule, cost \$1.50; horn semicircle, India ink, improved ink disk, whetstone for compasses 45 and 90° triangles and sponge cup for stamps (U. S. preferred) not in my collection. Also compass stamps. Send lists. E. Leebach, 7 W. 14th St., New York City.

Fine Black Walnut cabinet 15x18 inches and 15 1/2 inches high, 14 velvet lined drawers having two removable trays each a perfect condition, to exchange for good coins, paper money or bronze medals; send description with offer. C. J. Verconter, 80 East Superior St., Chicago, Ill.

I have 300 arrow heads, 400 U. S. coins, some fractional currency and a few foreign coins not in collection and arrow heads or Indian relics from other places. I will give good value in exchange for what I want. Frank M. Underwood, St. Charles, Ill.

Will exchange U. S. and foreign stamps, a Dupuy & Schenck penny post on original letter back to exchange for same value (Scott's Cat.) in U. S. stamps or unused Departments or Periodicals. Send sheets of rare foreign or U. S. and I will do the same. A. W. Dunning, San Fernando, Cal.

Scarce postmarks all west of Pennsylvania to exchange for old stamped envelopes, war envelopes with flags or portraits on, or for U. S. stamps. Jas. H. Mortimer, Arlington Hotel, Erie, Pa.

Colonial coppers of Massachusetts, New York, etc., and American half cents for very good to fine American Cents. M. Jenkins, Kearsargeville, New York.

Autograph letters of Mrs. H. B. Stowe, E. P. Roe Gail Hamilton, E. E. Hale, Cromwell, Lord Charles of England, Sir Henry Holland and Fitz John Porter for stamps or offers in currency or old books. D. S. Farrington, Wrentham, Mass. Box 4.

Document, match and medicine stamps to exchange for others; unused foreign stamps for rare stamps. W. H. Danforth, Worcester, Mass.

Wanted, dimes of 1857-8, '67, '83 or '87. Will give 100 different stamps, including Mexico, Asia, etc., for each one, or will give a geode or 100 different postmarks. Chas. O. Henbest, Marshall, Ill.

Wanted! Curiosities for public museum, war records, relics, old documents, lottery tickets, almanacs, theatre programs, autographs, prison carvings, rogues' photographs, etc. Seebach, Peru, Ill.

100 postmarks or 50 stamps for each Indian arrow head, 25 different stamps or 50 postmarks for each metallic store card. W. R. G., Box 49, Pittsburg, Pa.

Job printing for stamps: a large variety of eggs, 275 numbers of Youth's Companion, 20 arrowheads, for stamps or offers. R. N. Edwards, Brooks, Me.

Scarce and rare U. S. coins wanted. Have to exchange for same U. S. silver and copper coins, foreign coins, Confederate bills. Send list of wants. Phil S. Bonney, Little Sioux, Iowa.

Books, copies of Weekly Graphic, magazines, petrifed wood and curiosities for foreign postal cards and envelopes. Dealers send cards on approval and name discount. John J. Prouty, Baldwinville, N.Y.

Will give coins, foreign stamps, books, etc., for match, medicine or playing card stamps, any quantity, or U. S. Departments or old postage. Erastus Cornell, Box 40, Marshalltown, Iowa.

I want 5,000 old U. S. cents issued before 1820 and for each one sent me I will give 100 foreign stamps containing at least 30 varieties. Box 104, Hoosick Falls, N. Y.

30 different postmarks, or 25 mixed foreign stamps for every arrowhead sent me. S. M. Hindoman, 1113 4th Ave., Altoona, Pa.

A pair of Winslow's club skates, size 10 1/2 blued top, hardened, cost \$2, used but little; will exchange for V nickels without cents. I have a lot of magazines would like to exchange for V nickels without cents; send offers. Reference, Post Master of this place. Willie Peterson, Box 14, Assaria, Kansas.

A fine collection of silver coins for a good collection of U. S. postage and revenue stamps. I would like to exchange collection complete; all letters answered. Frank P. Adams, Box 942, Decorah, Iowa.

Tags and envelopes for same. Receipt for copying paid free for every ten revenue stamps, or, for curiosities. Correspondence solicited. James G. McBride, Pawnee City, Neb.

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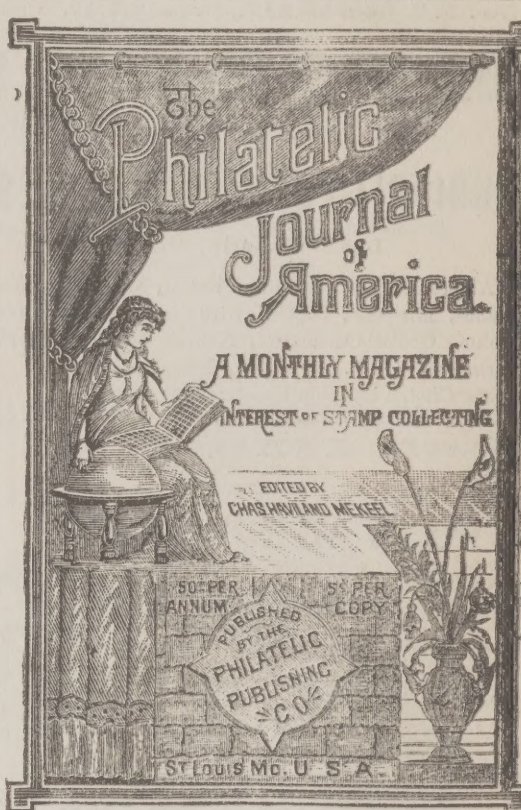
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